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Saipan Tribune

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Copper wire thieves get maximum 10-year sentence. PAGE 3
Two-way race for CPA director post nears end. PAGE 5

Fund settlement deal tentatively OK'd

BY FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMIF designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood preliminarily approved yesterday the settlement agreement in Betty Johnson's class action against the NMI Retirement Fund and the CNMI government.

Tydingco-Gatewood approved the deal after listening to the presentation of attorney Margery S. Bronster, one of Johnson's lawyers, and after the parties in the lawsuit supported the motion to have the deal accepted.

The judge said that Johnson's claims merit class action treatment and the settlement agreement itself appears to be fair, reasonable, adequate and in the best interests of the settlement class members.

With the judge's order, the Fund will pay out $52 million in two stages—$10 million in the first stage after entry of preliminary approval, and the remaining balance after final approval.

The $52 million will be used to pay

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Kilili: NMI will be included in House immigration bill

» August recess a key factor

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Sablan

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said yesterday he's confident that a CNMI provision will be included in a U.S. House "Gang of Seven" immigration bill, and that he believes every member of Congress will be listening to his or her constituents throughout the August work period.

Now back in the CNMI, Sablan said the August work period will help members assess what to do with immigration legislation when Congress returns next month.

"I feel confident that because I met with each and every member of the Gang, the Northern Marianas will be provided for, much

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US funded report: NMI Internet costly, competition needed

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A federally funded report reached a conclusion that many in the CNMI already knows—that Internet service here is costly and "additional competition for last mile connection will lower the cost to end users."

Currently, the CNMI and American Samoa are the only states and territories in the U.S. served by a single, undersea cable.

The CNMI Department of Commerce report, prepared by One Global Economy, says the cables owned and operated by IT&E that link the CNMI to Guam are currently ample for the territory's bandwidth needs.

However, the issue remains that when all middle-mile connection points are owned and operated by a single entity, it creates a business

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BRISK BUSINESS THESE DAYS

With a majestic view of the bay in the background, tourists spend a lovely afternoon yesterday in the Greg Norman-designed LaoLao Bay Golf Resort, one of the most popular golf hotels in the CNMI. Hotels have been posting high occupancy rates. In June alone, occupancy among 12 members of the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands recorded a 77.74-percent occupancy, a 14-percent increase compared to the same month last year. HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

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OPINION METER
This week's poll:
Do you support the 25-percent cut in retirees' benefits to help prolong the life of the NMI Retirement Fund?
Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

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LOCAL

Former residents make a passionate plea to spare the Northern Islands. ➤ PAGE 13

BUSINESS

Jeff Bezos, the Amazon.com founder, buys The Washington Post. ➤ PAGE 15

ASIA

A bomb kills at least eight in a volatile southern Philippine city. ➤ PAGE 17

Local

Despite tough times, Saipan Zoo soldiers on

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Cats may have nine lives but the three large cats the Saipan Zoo acquired from its counterpart in Guam seven years ago appears to have sustained the local zoo despite the hard economic times.

Tropical Gardens and Saipan Zoo owner Frank Aldan said like other businesses on island negatively affected by skyrocketing utility bills, high cost of gas, and increases in minimum wage, the local zoo in As Mahetog wasn't spared and has also suffered but has fortunately remained open.

A certified plant and animal lover, Aldan said he and his two daughters just couldn't stomach closing it, especially if they factor in the smiles and happiness the Saipan Zoo brings to children of all ages.

MARK RABAGO

Saipan Zoo's Oceana, left, and Sunshine Aldan pose for the *Saipan Tribune* in front of a large "Saipan Zone" graffiti.

He said feeding the more than 60 animals at the zoo costs them $150 a day. "If you have only five or so visitors a day, it's not enough and you have to pay out of pocket to meet the zoo's needs," Aldan said.

Fortunately there is hope on the horizon for Aldan and her daughters Oceana and Sunshine as 2013 appears to have the makings of a better year compared to the last couple of years.

"We've been having a lot of locals visitor because it's summer time and the parents come with their kids. Coming to the zoo is really one of their summer activities," said Aldan.

Aldan said their three big cats—"Lambert" the lion, "Ozzie" the leopard, and "Tasha" the tiger—remain the zoo's biggest attractions and are the ones majority of patrons love to see.

Saipan Zoo bought the three big cats and 18 other exotic animals from Southern Comfort Zoo in Guam back in 2006.

Also driving ticket receipts are tourists, who are visiting the zoo more frequently and are a boon to Aldan's business.

The zoo also used to have a black bear named Booboo but it died of colon cancer in 2010.

"He was very healthy but he suddenly he got sick and it died. Unfortunately we have no cancer treatment for animals here. We only found out that what killed him was colon cancer when we did an autopsy. Booboo was treated for two weeks by our local veterinarian," said Aldan.

He founded the Saipan Zoo in 1995 when local residents started dropping off and donating animals of all shapes and sizes to the landscaping company.

"We built a habitat first for peacocks, then deer, pigs, and lizards. Then tour companies came to us and asked if we can do tours for kids and that's how it all started," he said.

Aldan said the zoo currently needs some serious upgrades as its decades-old cages and enclosures have began to deteriorate. He said he is looking for a mix of loans and grants to keep the zoo in top shape.

Aside from Oceana and Sunshine, Aldan's other uniquely named daughters are Sky and Plumerria.

The Saipan Zoo is open everyday including Sunday from 9am to 5pm. Local rates are $10 for adult and $5 for children. School excursion rate is $3.75 per student and $5 per chaperone.

For more information about the Saipan Zoo, call 322-5711 or email tropicalgarden@pticom.com.

DPW joins Tangs Corp in asking OPA to reconsider Marpi landfill decision

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Works has joined Tangs Corp. in a request for reconsideration of the Office of the Public Auditor's decision granting SARS or Success International Corp.'s appeal over Tang's selection for the Marpi landfill operation contract.

OPA also ordered DPW to reissue the request for proposal for the Marpi landfill project with price/cost to the government as an evaluation factor.

DPW, through assistant attorney general Peter B. Prestley, also "supplements" Tangs' request for reconsideration with two key matters.

First, DPW included cost as an evaluation factor in the RFP, and explained its relevant importance, Prestley said.

Second, other OPA decisions support DPW's position to award the contract to other than the lowest bidder.

These were in an Aug. 5 letter to Public Auditor Michael Pai.

DPW Secretary Martin Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that they don't expect any OPA decision until after about a week.

Prestley said the RFP sufficiently included cost as an evaluation factor and explained its relative importance to the award.

Prestley said OPA granted SARS' appeal because it found that "just including price/cost in the Operational Plan without specifying its relative importance is insufficient."

He also cited two places in the RFP where DPW included cost as an evaluation factor.

With contract for services, in particular, Prestley said that merely awarding a contract to the lowest bidder is often a recipe for disaster.

He said without identifying a bidder that possesses the knowledge, skills and/or experience to do the job proficiently, "price or cost to the government is just an arbitrary number."

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Man in sex abuse case allowed to use Skype for expert's testimony

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho yesterday allowed businessman Ho Jin Yoon to have his expert witness in the U.S. mainland testify for him using Skype, a video conferencing application.

Yoon, the 59-year-old owner of three retail stores on Saipan and one retail store in Guam, is facing charges of allegedly sexually abusing a minor girl.

Camacho said he finds it necessary for Yoon to be able to present the testimony of an expert witness by video conference, and that the most efficient manner of doing so is to use Skype in the courtroom.

The judge directed Yoon's counsel, Richard W. Pierce, to arrange a demonstration of the video-conferencing technology to be used no later than seven days prior to trial.

The jury trial will begin on Sept. 9, 2013.

Yoon asked the court to allow the remote testimony of his expert witness because the cost of having an expert travel to the CNMI is expensive and that there are no experts of the type he is seeking on island.

Yoon argued that in order to defend himself against the charges, he needs to introduce an expert witness to counter the testimony of the government's experts.

Yoon asserted that the proposed testimony will explain that it is not possible to tell whether penetration took place based on the specific examination conducted by the physician who treated the alleged victim.

Assistant attorney general Chemere McField opposed the motion, arguing that the testimony of Yoon's expert would be cumulative and that the government's expert is neutral.

In his order, Camacho said other trial courts in the U.S. have allowed witnesses to testify remotely via Skype in criminal cases.

Camacho said he sees no reason to require the jurors, parties, and court staff to travel to the federal courthouse.

"Instead, in the spirit of eliminating any unjustifiable expense or delay during the trial, this court is open to having the video conference via Skype as a manner of testimony by closed circuit television," the judge said.

Police arrested Yoon in March 2013 for allegedly sexually abusing a 6-year-old girl. He was released from custody after posting a $50,000 cash bail.

Copper wire thieves get maximum 10-year sentence

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Two men were slapped yesterday with maximum sentences of 10 years in prison with no parole for breaking into a former garment factory in Afetnas and stealing copper wires and other items.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho ordered Matthias Salisban and Jefferey J. Lizama to serve their sentence day by day.

Salisban and Lizama, who both pleaded guilty to burglary, were each given credit for six months and 27 days of time served.

After the hearing, the two were immediately brought to the Department of Corrections to start serving their sentences.

Assistant attorney general Chemere McField had recommended a five-year sentence. Assistant public defender Benjamin Petersburg, counsel for Salisban recommended five years in prison and five years in probation. Attorney David Banes, counsel for Lizama, recommended two to three years in prison with lengthy probations.

Salisban initially pleaded guilty to burglary pursuant to a plea deal that recommends five years behind bars. Camacho rejected the deal as too lenient.

Salisban then asked in open court to amend the plea deal to allow the court to sentence him at the judge's discretion.

In rejecting the first plea deal, Camacho said law-abiding citizens of the CNMI cry out for justice against the plague of thefts, burglaries, and robberies.

"There can be no justice without the appropriate punishment. The proposed plea agreement lacks any meaningful deterrent value; it might as well be a 'get out of jail for free card,'" the judge said.

Camacho said that criminals destroy thousands of dollars worth of property for just a handful of dollars when copper wires are sold as scrap metal.

Camacho said copper wire thefts are especially damaging to public and private property.

It is alleged that on Dec. 18, 2012 to Dec. 19, 2012, Salisban and Lizama entered a warehouse formerly known as the Onu Moda Factory in Afetnas to steal items. The defendants then allegedly stole various power tools from the factory.

There are three more co-defendants in this case. Their jury trial will be on Sept. 16, 2013, also before Camacho.

DPW

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"In the present case, the complexity of running the CNMI's landfill requires very specialized knowledge, skill and experience. Thus, as described in the RFP, DPW sought to award the contract to the 'highest qualified firm at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government under their sole discretion,'" Prestley told the public auditor in a four-page letter.

DPW is requesting OPA to reconsider its decision and uphold the decision of the Division of Procurement and Supply director.

Sablan said DPW wants to move ahead and award the contract to Tangs Corp., whose certain personnel have been involved in the construction and operation of the Marpi landfill since its inception in 2002 whereas SARS "had no experience in operating a landfill until it obtained the contract for the temporary equipment rental," the procurement director had said in a decision to reject SARS' protest.

Since September 2012, DPW has been entering into a short-term equipment rental services agreement first with SARS and later on with Tangs Corp. until it could award a long-term Marpi landfill operations contract. Procurement protests and appeals, however, have been delaying the award of such long-term contract.

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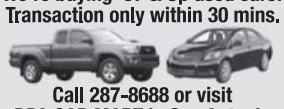
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EPA's new calculator helps manage stormwater runoff

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has released the National Stormwater Calculator, an innovative addition to the Obama administration's virtual climate resilience toolkit.

EPA's new calculator will help property owners, developers, landscapers, and urban planners make informed land-use decisions to protect local waterways from pollution caused by stormwater runoff. Preventing stormwater runoff, which can impact drinking water resources and local ecosystems, protects people's health and the environment.

The calculator, which is phase I of the Stormwater Calculator and Climate Assessment Tool package announced in the President's Climate Action Plan in June, is a desktop application that estimates the annual amount of stormwater runoff from a specific site, based on local soil conditions, slope, land cover, and historical rainfall records. Users can enter any U.S. location and select different scenarios to learn how specific green infrastructure changes, including inexpensive changes like rain barrels and rain gardens, can prevent pollution. This information helps users determine how adding green infrastructure can be one of the most cost-effective ways to reduce stormwater runoff.

"EPA's research is providing innovative solutions to protect our nation's water resources," said Lek Kadeli, principal deputy assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Research and Development. "The Stormwater Calculator demonstrates different types of green infrastructure approaches which can result in protection from flooding, energy savings, improved air quality, increased property values, healthier communities, and cost savings for the American people."

Each year billions of gallons of raw sewage, trash, household chemicals, and urban runoff flow into our streams, rivers and lakes. Polluted stormwater runoff can adversely affect plants, animals, and people. It also adversely affects our economy – from closed beaches to decreased fishing and hunting in polluted areas. Green infrastructure is an affordable solution to promote healthy waters and support sustainable communities.

An update to the Stormwater Calculator, which will include the ability to link to several future climate scenarios, will be released by the end of 2013. Climate projections indicate that heavy precipitation events are very likely to become more frequent as the climate changes. ***(EPA)***

INTERNET

From Page 1

chokepoint , it says.

The owner of the middle-mile connection has a monopoly over the market, and in order to gain a competitive advantage in last-mile delivery, it can charge downstream Internet service providers uncompetitive rates, the report adds.

"It is our opinion that this type of middle-mile monopoly may have led to market inefficiencies in both American Samoa and [the] CNMI, which is why we recommend that the CNMI [Public Utilities Commission] request local ISPs [Internet service providers] to disclose their total middle-mile capacity, the capacity they use for their own customers, the capacity they lease out to other companies, the price they charge for a leased line (i.e., DS3), and their cost of operating leased lines," says One Global Economy in its report.

Against a backdrop of a shrinking population and unstable economy, the high cost of Internet is prohibitive for many households, the report says.

These households may turn to using Internet connections from nearby businesses or neighbors, perhaps without their consent, the report says.

"Yet reliance on a neighbor's broadband connection itself is likely not the primary cause of the low rates of broadband at home; rather it is an effect of the high cost of Internet subscription and the inability of many residents to pay," it adds.

The report also says residents have a high desire for the Internet, they want to subscribe, they realize the benefits of the Internet, and they even have the hardware needed to access it.

"There is ample latent demand for broadband; however, the inability of the two ISPs to deliver high-speed Internet at affordable rates depresses residential broadband adoption. It is our opinion that additional competition for last mile connection will lower the cost of end users," the report concludes.

The CNMI Department of Commerce contracted One Global Economy in 2011 with grant assistance from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to assess the current state of broadband connectivity in the CNMI.

Commerce Secretary Sixto Igisomar said the report on the digital blueprint of broadband in the CNMI provides results of the determinations and assessments, as well as provides for recommendations for the local governments of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, the federal government, local non-government organizations, local Internet service providers, and the CNMI people.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said the CNMI Commerce transmitted the CNMI Digital Blueprint Report to the congressional office last week.

"The report gives a detailed look at broadband speeds, pricing, penetration, and customer satisfaction in the Northern Mariana Islands, and makes recommendations for improvement. ARRA, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, granted $240 million nationwide for states and territories to blueprint their broadband systems," Sablan said.

Commerce, according to Sablan, received approximately $1.2 million for broadband planning activities, including two years of semi-annual data collection, integration, verification and display.

"Future broadband grants and funding opportunities are likely to be based on this data, making the report an important tool to the future of broadband in the Northern Marianas," he added.

The report recommends that the CNMI, in collaboration with a higher education institution such as University of Hawaii, try to set up broadband initiatives targeting the schools on Tinian and Rota.

It also recommends the CNMI delegate's office to help secure funding to start any new programs aimed at boosting adoption and the logical starting point for this is the federal government.

FUND

From Page 1

refunds of contributions to current government employees who have requested to leave the Fund.

The refunds will be paid in two stages. The first will be paid pro-rata from the $10 million sum set aside by the Fund. The second will be paid, but after the entry of an order of final approval of the settlement, but before the settlement fund is created.

Tydingco-Gatewood said she will separately rule on the issue of attorneys' fees and costs for Johnson.

Under the settlement agreement, the CNMI government agreed to pay Johnson's attorneys' fees and costs, in addition to a $7,500 service award for bringing the lawsuit on behalf of other class members.

The judge set a hearing on Johnson's motion for final approval on Sept. 30, 2013.

The mailing and publication of notice will be on Aug. 20, 2013. Deadline to file objections will be Sept. 16, 2013.

Those who do not want to be included in the settlement class must convey their request to the Fund before Sept. 20, 2013.

In an interview with Bronster after the hearing, she disclosed that if everything is as approved as scheduled, retirees will start getting a reduced amount with their payments in October 2013.

Yesterday's hearing was delayed for over an hour to give the parties time to sign the settlement agreement. The judge started the hearing when all except Northern Marianas College president Sharon Hart, Ph.D., had already affixed their signatures.

Attorney Mark Scoggins, counsel for NMC, told the court that Hart had just returned to Saipan from an off-island trip and that she called for an emergency meeting yesterday afternoon with the NMC Board of Regents to obtain approval to sign the settlement agreement. Scoggins said he will advise Hart to sign the agreement as it does have a huge impact on the college.

The signatories in the agreement are Johnson and her attorneys Bronster, Robert M. Hatch, Bruce Jorgensen, and Stephen Woodruff, and Gov. Eloy S. Inos.

The other signatories are Attorney General Joey P. San Nicolas, Fund trustee *ad litem* representative Joseph C. Razzano, Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson, Commonwealth Health Corp. acting chief operating officer Esther Muña, and Fund trustees.

In her presentation, Bronster said the parties all agreed that the settlement deal is fair and appropriate. She described it as "quite a remarkable outcome."

Tydingco-Gatewood replied that with the guidance of Hawaii chief bankruptcy judge Robert Faris, who presided over the settlement talks, the parties came up with "a remarkable document."

The judge said she read the document many times.

Bronster cited the long background of the filing of Johnson's lawsuit, all the legal hurdles that she successfully fought, and the settlement discussions when tempers and emotions ran high. She talked of how important the settlement is to the retirees, the CNMI government, and the Fund.

Bronster said that Johnson should be recognized and lauded as she was the sole person to come up and fight for her constitutional rights and even diligently participated in some of the settlement discussions.

"We do believe it is a very fair settlement," the lawyer said.

With the settlement, Bronster said the Fund's money is protected and will be transferred to a settlement fund to be administered by a court-approved trustee.

Bronster said retirees will continue to receive health benefits.

With the notice, Bronster said that class members will have the opportunity to review the settlement and even opt-out.

Those who opt out, Bronster said, won't have the benefits that will be protected by the trustee and the lawyers for the class.

"There's no guarantee they can get 75 percent [in retirement benefits],"she said.

If there are too many opt-outs, there will be no settlement, she said, and they will be litigating, fighting in courts again, and retirees would end up getting nothing.

Bronster expressed her appreciation to Tydingco-Gatewood for helping keep the parties on track and acting expeditiously and also to Faris for guiding them in the negotiations.

Tydingco-Gatewood said this is a "crisis situation" and that even now the Fund is in crisis. She said it is an honor for her to work with Faris.

"That is our job and we are happy to do it," Tydingco-Gatewood added.

Bronster said the settlement trustee should be ready to accept the responsibility of releasing the checks beginning this October.

The judge urged the parties to submit three names for the settlement fund trustee position that she will interview and appoint on Sept. 25, prior to the final approval of the settlement.

Attorney Joyce Tang, counsel for the Fund's trustee *ad litem*, said that class members will get a big chunk of their retirement benefits under the settlement agreement.

Tang cited Inos, Johnson's counsel, trustee *ad litem* representative Joseph Razzano and others for working hard to reach the settlement.

The judge thanked Tang and her law firm for taking up the challenge to serve as the Fund trustee *ad litem.*

Assistant attorney general Reena Patel said they concurred with Bronster and Tang for the approval of the settlement.

Patel also thanked Faris for guiding them throughout the highly contentious negotiations.

The judge thanked Patel and her team for " staying firm" in the case.

In an interview, Bronster said she is really thrilled that they have preliminary approval of the settlement agreement.

"I think that the agreement is just a wonderful thing to have. We're in such dire shape and the class members were standing to get nothing. And now we have an agreement that will get the class members a minimum of 75 percent of their retirement benefits," Bronster said.

She said if the government does not meet its obligations under the deal, there is a stipulated judgment of $779 million that they will enforce.

"We got a lot of work to do between now and in the end of September," she said.

She is hopeful that a lot of people will decide to stay in the class and that the court will grant final approval at the end of September.

Patel said that a lot of difficult decisions had to be made during the settlement process, with a lot of input from various officials, and a lot of looking at the Fund's history.

Tang said they are very grateful for Tydingco-Gatewood and Faris, Johnson and her counsels, and the government.

"All the parties really came together to make the settlement possible," Tang said.

IMMIGRATION

From Page 1

as we are in the Senate 'Gang of Eight' bill that has passed the Senate. I am sure that every Member of Congress will be listening to his or her constituents throughout the August work period to assess what to do with immigration legislation when Congress returns in September," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

Because no immigration reform bill has come out of the House so far, there is no telling what the CNM language will be in the House version.

Sablan has said he has submitted to the House the same language he submitted to the Senate "Gang of Eight," which grants long-term, legal foreigners in the CNMI a pathway to U.S. citizenship.

The sweeping national reform measure, S. 744, passed the Senate. It provides some 11 million undocumented aliens in the United States a pathway to citizenship.

S. 744's CNMI-specific provision, as Sablan has worked on, provides long-term foreigners a chance to apply for a CNMI-only status within months of the bill's enactment.

Those covered include legal foreign workers who have been in the CNMI since at least 2003, and those with U.S. citizen children regardless of the age of the children.

After an additional five-year waiting period, these aliens can start applying for U.S. permanent residence status or "green card," a pathway to U.S. citizenship.

Worker groups, however, remain positive that the U.S. House will not touch the additional five-year period before a long-term legal alien in the CNMI could apply for "green card."

Dekada president Bonifacio Sagana, like many others, said if undocumented aliens in the United States could be given a pathway to citizenship, it does not make sense to provide a much shorter pathway to citizenship to legal, long-term aliens in the CNMI.

The CNMI's alien workers have their own U.S. Social Security number, have been paying taxes and have been relied upon by the fragile tourism-based Commonwealth economy.

Moreover, if the transitional CW program is not extended beyond Dec. 31, 2014 and no improved status is granted to thousands of long-term legal aliens, the CNMI loses access to these workers. The CNMI government and the business sector are one in saying this could result in the CNMI's economic collapse, at a time when tourism is on the upswing again.

Two-way race for CPA director post nears completion

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is expected to have a new executive director this month, with the board's personnel affairs committee aiming to come up with a recommendation to the full board very soon.

CPA board personnel affairs committee chair Fermin Sakisat disclosed yesterday that the panel is nearing completion of the process to hire a new CPA chief.

Saipan Tribune learned that the race is now down to two applicants: long-time lawmaker Diego Benavente and Joeten Kiyu Public Library executive director John Oliver Gonzales.

Sakisat's committee has three members—Frances Mafnas, Barrie Toves, and Benigno Sablan—who are tasked to independently evaluate each candidate. Sablan's term recently expired and, although the governor has reappointed him, the Senate has yet to confirm his nomination.

Sakisat's committee was supposed to finish the evaluation of the two candidates yesterday but due to the unavailability of Rota board member Toves, the board decided to defer the agenda to a later date.

Sakisat confirmed that both candidates have already been interviewed. *Saipan Tribune* learned that Benavente was personally interviewed by the committee while Gonzales appeared via video teleconference some two weeks ago.

According to Sakisat, in the absence of Sablan in the committee, the panel is left with three members, each submitting their own evaluation of each candidate.

As of yesterday, Sakisat and Mafnas appeared before the board ready with their separate evaluation reports while Toves is still working on his on Rota.

Sakisat said committee put off submitting its recommendation to the full board yesterday because the board wants to give Toves ample time to finish his own evaluation report.

Saipan Tribune learned that committee members rated each candidate's experience and qualifications on a scale of 1 to 5. The individual who gets the highest points from all members will be recommended for selection as the new executive director.

CPA board chair Jose Lifoifoi disclosed yesterday that the full board will name the selected candidate within the month. The next board meeting is tentatively scheduled for Aug. 12 where a decision may be made.

Whoever is officially selected will be given a one-year contract for $70,000 per annum, Lifoifoi said.

The CPA board earlier lowered the qualification requirements for the executive director position, allowing long years of government service to substitute for a college degree. The board also lowered the salary offer for the post from $90,000 per annum to $70,000.

The board fired Edward Deleon Guerrero from his post as executive director in June. He served the agency for three years.

Weather and other issues delay airport's runway project anew

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The long-awaited completion and full operation of the main runway of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport this month is not going to happen due to some delays in the construction period.

Commonwealth Ports Authority executive assistant Wendi L. Prater disclosed yesterday that the new target completion date for the Saipan runway project is December 2013—five months from the last target completion date of August this year.

"It was pushed back because there are some paving issues that need to be resolved, which the contractor is working on now. In addition, delays have been caused by weather delays as runway work cannot resume if it is raining," said Prater.

The new timeframe is projected to affect the runway's full operation next year.

The main runway rehabilitation was approved in 2009 but construction was interrupted in March 2012 due to some concerns.

The project consists of rehabilitating the main runway and narrowing its width from 200 feet to 150 feet based on Federal Aviation Administration requirements, relocation of runway lights, posting of signs and markings, and restoring Runway 6/24 back to a parallel taxiway. The Saipan airport's main runway, Runway 7/25, is over 25 years old.

Since it began renovation work on the runway, CPA has been pushing back its completion date due to various issues and concerns.

The agency earlier assured that the construction is not affecting or delaying flights to and from various destinations.

The FAA is shouldering the full cost of the rehabilitation, which last year totaled $32 million.

Despite the new delays, Prater said "there is no change [in the budget]" from the previous amount.

Besides the runway rehabilitation, CPA is also working on its restroom and water improvement project which consists of renovating all public restrooms at the terminal and upgrading the water pump system, pump house, and hydropneumatic water tank.

The drainage and air-conditioning system improvement is also ongoing. This project will address the flooding and leaks at the airport processing and holding areas and will correct the drainage system on the roof.

The lighting system that provides vertical guidance for aircraft on final approach to Runway 25 will also be upgraded as well as the procurement of a 1,500-gallon firefighting vehicle.

Financial award amounts for SHEFA scholars as is in 2013

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Beneficiaries of the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance won't see any adjustments in their grant awards this new semester after the program administrator Merissa Rasa confirmed that there will be no changes this school year.

"To date, there are no changes in award amounts for the upcoming school year," Rasa said yesterday.

According to Rasa, her office received 642 applications to date.

"This number is made up mostly of new and returning applicants, since ongoing applicants now are not required to submit an application or MOA [memorandum of agreement] unless there are changes to their contact information or academic status," she said.

Rasa said the total number of applicants for this fall 2013 term will not be final until after Sept. 30, since that is the deadline for all supporting documents.

She said she is now reviewing all complete application packages and will be making the first check request with the Department of Finance this Friday.

She pointed out that those who are complete and approved will be on this list while incomplete application packages will not be entertained until they are complete.

Rasa said all new and returning applicants must submit their supporting documents by Sept. 30. As for all ongoing recipients, they only need to submit their official transcript and class schedule. Plus, their acceptance letter if they are transferring to a new institution and application and MOA if there are changes in their status.

Meantime, Rasa disclosed that the board is currently working on amending and updating the SHEFA bylaws, which date back to 2004 and have never been updated since then. Discussion on the matter is slated on Monday.

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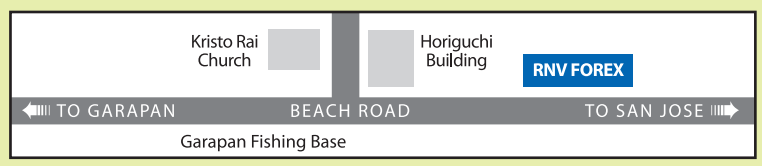

"Para sa mabilis at matipid na pagpapadala ng pera sa Pilipinas, Mag BPInoy Remittance na.
Dahil and marunong humawak ng pera, sa BPInoy remittance nagpapadala."

Rotary Club gets lessons in aquaponics, hydroponics

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MARK RABAGO

Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service aquaculture specialist Michael Ogo made a presentation about aquaponics during the Saipan Rotary Club weekly meeting yesterday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Green thumbs from the Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service gave members of the Saipan Rotary Club a neat lesson about aquaponics and hydroponics during the organization's weekly meeting yesterday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

NMC-CREES aquaculture specialist Michael Ogo and outreach coordinator Claus Bier gave presentations on aquaponics and hydroponics and how well suited these soil-less way of planting crops are in the Commonwealth.

Ogo said NMC-CREES introduced aquaponics to the islands after realizing that a lot of its tilipia farmers were having a hard time with the cost of production, specifically with the high price of feed and electricity.

"So we looked into how we can assist these farms basically to reduce their production costs and we realized that while it takes about five to six months for a fish to grow to market size, the ebb flow of the water they're using can be utilized for the production of vegetables," he said.

To this end NMC-CREES sent staff to St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands in 2011 to study aquaponics from the pioneer of the technique himself, Dr. Jim Rakowski.

"It was his last year as researcher at University of the Virgin Islands and we wanted to make sure that we attended his training before he left," said Ogo.

Rakowski studied at Auburn University and spent the last 30 to 40 years in aquaponics production research at UVI. He is now a consultant based out of Thailand.

Ogo and company also visited Hawaii because, he said, a lot of the aquaponics and hydroponics activity in the world is currently happening in Hawaii.

Through what they learned from their off-island work study trips, NMC-CREES was able to establish aquaponics as a viable soil-less technique for growing vegetables and fruits on the island. Ogo said there are presently four aquaponics farms in the CNMI.

One such farm, he said, is NMC-CREES' partnership with Marianas Business Plaza and its general manager, Eric Van Der Mass.

NMC-CREES helped the businessman build an aquaponics system on the third floor of the former Nauru Building in Susupe. Ogo said the setup is capable of producing 1,200 lettuce per crop. "So you're looking at 1,200 lettuce every four weeks."

Ogo and company also helped the Municipality of Rota secure a $270,000 grant from the Office of Insular Affairs to start a commercial aquaponics demonstration on the island.

"They just sent five Mayor of Rota staff to Hawaii for three months where they got training on every aspect of aquaponics production. The second phase of the project is to construct the demonstration facility, which they are doing now in Sinapalo. The next phase of the project is bring these vegetables into production and start exporting leafy or fruit type of vegetables to the island of Guam."

Broken down, Ogo said, aquaponics is a method of soil-less agriculture where the fish becomes the main supplier of the nutrients to the plant.

"It's fish, bacteria, and plants. The fish produces the ammonia. The bacteria converts the ammonia into nitrates which is fertilizer and the plant takes the nitrates and returns the water back to the tank clean and the cycle goes on."

Aquaponics is viable in the CNMI because of many factors.

"We live in an island environment so this type of system takes less space than traditional agriculture. It requires less water because you're growing things in water. It's sustainable and it's organic. Plants can be planted closer than in traditional agriculture. Food security is also achieved because you eliminate the use of agricultural inputs, may it be fertilizer or pesticides."

Ogo said there are three aquaponics systems—ebb and flow or flood and drain; deep water culture system; and nutrient filled technique or NFT.

The more commercial of the three is the deep water culture system that Rakowski pioneered, while the ebb and flow system is the backyard type.

Hyrdroponics is adding nutrients

Bier began his presentation by making a distinction between hydroponics and aquaponics. He said the former is different from the latter due to hydroponics requiring nutrients or adding fertilizer to the water.

He said hydroponics is a subset of hydroculture and is a method of growing plants using mineral-nutrient solution water without soil. There are two types of hydroponics systems—circulating and non-circulating.

"The advantage of hydroponics is you don't need any soil so you won't have any soil-born diseases, which are often seen around the islands. There is little labor. You just have to set up your system and forget it. More or less, you just have to come back later and harvest it."

Hydroponics also has very low water consumption and very little to no power consumption and that nutrient levels can be adjusted to the specific plant inside the system.

"You only feed the plant you want to grow as opposed to growing plants on soil where weeds can also get the nutrients. It's also gives a high yield. We planted radish and it tasted good and this coming from a German whose home country has radish as a staple."

He said their goal in hydroponics is to keep it as simple as possible with the least material needed and one doesn't need to be a rocket scientist to set it up. Only $25 is needed to setup a hydroponics system, he added.

"Once it is set up you can forget about it. It's a planting technique, like one of your members said, that's designed for old people."

MARK RABAGO

NMC-CREES and outreach coordinator Claus Bier gestures as he talks about how to construct a hydrophonics setup.

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Man allegedly throws chair at wife

A 30-year-old man was arrested last week for allegedly throwing a chair twice at his common-law wife at their house in Kagman.

Joaquin P. Adriano Jr. was arrested for assault with a dangerous weapon and disturbing the peace. His bail was set at $10,000 cash.

Police detective Norman L. Skilling stated in his report that an officer responded to Kagman on Thursday at 3:55pm after police received a call about a domestic case.

The alleged victim told police that on Wednesday night, Adriano was yelling, asking about the house telephone. When none of the children answered him, he shouted at her, grabbed a chair and threw it at her. Fortunately, the wife managed to evade it. The next morning, he again yelled at her, took the same chair and threw it again at her. She also managed to evade the chair.

When he started yelling at her that afternoon, she decided to proceed to her uncle's house to seek the police's help.

The wife alleged that the defendant beat her up in the past in front of their children. Their children have been asking her to leave their father because of his alleged physical abuse. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Obama admin renews support for Rota National Park bill

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Obama administration renewed its support for a bill creating a Rota National Park at last week's hearing on H.R. 674, held by the National Parks Subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's (Ind-MP) legislation on a Rota National Park passed the U.S. House thrice; the last one was on June 17.

Sablan said a subcommittee markup of H.R. 674 should occur after the U.S. Senate returns from the August work period.

The bill authorizes a "suitability and feasibility" study of Rota's many cultural, historical, and natural resources for incorporation as a unit of America's National Park System.

The Obama administration, represented by Stephanie Toothman of the Interior's National Park Service, testified in support of HR 674 with a technical amendment during last week's subcommittee hearing.

Toothman said the NPS estimates that the study will cost $250,000 to $300,000.

In her two-page testimony, Toothman said Rota, the southernmost island of the CNMI, preserves striking examples of the 3,000-year-old Chamorro culture surrounded by the best remaining expanse of this island chain's native limestone forest.

The Mochon Latte Village, the Chugai Pictograph Cave, the Taga Latte Stone Quarry, and the Alaguan Bay Ancient Village prehistoric sites include architectural features unique to the ancient Chamorro culture and represent outstanding examples of the territory's cultural resources, Toothman said.

"The limestone forests of Rota are the most intact and most extensive examples of primary, native limestone forest remaining on any island in the Mariana Archipelago. The forest provides and sustains habitat for endangered bird species, a threatened species of fruit bat, and numerous species of invertebrates that are proposed for listing as threatened or endangered. Several of these species are endemic to Rota. The significance of this unique biotic community cannot be overstated," she said.

The Obama administration also noted that it was then-senator Diego M. Songao, 2004 chairman of the Rota Legislative Delegation, that formally requested the National Park Service to look at areas of Rota for designation as a National Park.

"Rota's residents and legislative delegation have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to the protection of the island's environment," Toothman said.

Sablan said Republican Sen. Rob Portman of Ohio expressed reservations about the cost of maintaining a Rota National Park, but Toothman explained that with National Park presence on Saipan and Guam, there were opportunities to spread out administrative overhead.

Inos: Delaying 25-pct. pension cut will hasten Fund's demise

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos said Monday that delaying for at least a year the 25-percent deferment or temporary cut in retirees' pension—as some lawmakers have been asking for—will only hasten the NMI Retirement Fund's demise.

"Yes I guess it could [be delayed] but that's going to accelerate the exhaustion of the Fund… Or if there's no reduction, that would deplete the Fund in about a year from now," Inos told *Saipan Tribune* after Monday's Cabinet meeting.

House Special Committee on Retirement Fund chair Rep. Mario Taitano (Ind-Saipan) told *Saipan Tribune* last week that he would ask the governor to postpone the 25-percent cut in retirees' benefits for at least a year, or until a clearer picture of the Fund's condition is known.

Taitano said it is "too soon to propose to cut," adding that "there's already enough money to last the Fund for two years."

The governor, however, said the administration would not want to see the pension cut to increase beyond 25 percent.

Yesterday, U.S. District Court for the NMIF designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood preliminarily approved the settlement agreement in Betty Johnson's class action against the NMI Retirement Fund and the CNMI government. Tydingco-Gatewood said the settlement agreement appears to be fair, reasonable and adequate. She approved the form and content of the notice about the settlement that will be disseminated to potential class members.

The governor reiterated that a supplemental budget is in the works to pump more money to the Fund in fiscal year 2014 to comply with the terms of the settlement agreement.

However, the proposed fiscal year 2014 budget of $123.4 million is still with the Senate.

NMC installs new phone system, phone extensions

The Northern Marianas College said yesterday that a new telephone system has been installed at its As Terlaje campus and that phone extensions for employees have changed. The new system, which uses "voice over IP" or VOIP technology, allows for greater flexibility and expanded functionality.

Callers can now reach employees directly by dialing the prefix "237" and the employee extension number. Or, callers can dial NMC's main telephone numbers, 234-5498 or 234-3690, and follow the voice prompts to be connected to any employee or department.

A listing of employees and their contact information will be posted on the NMC website at www.marianas.edu once the final adjustments to the newly installed system have been made. ***(NMC)***

What is the H.O.M.E. Visiting Program?
The H.O.M.E. Visiting Program is an acronym for Healthy Outcomes for Maternal and Early Childhood. The program sets out to improve the health and developmental outcomes for pregnant mothers and infants no older than 3 months of age who reside in at risk communities.
What is the purpose for this program?
To strengthen the early childhood system in the community and to support families and communities in the development of children who are healthy and ready to learn at school entry. The program wants to also strengthen and enhance initiatives/activities, expand and improve coordination, and assure the provision of comprehensive services for families who reside in at risk communities.
What are the program objectives?
Promote and maintain positive-child Interaction and family involvement
Provide and connect families to appropriate resources
Protect and improve the health, growth and development of every participant served
Produce and deliver quality service to families in at-risk communities
What Services are provided?
Prenatal care planning
Basic baby care
Infant Massage
Parenting techniques and information
Developmental screening & activities
Provide referrals to community resources as needed
Parent Support
Evidence Based Curriculum
How can I qualify?
You are currently pregnant
You have an infant no older than 3 months of age
Reside in Kagman, Koblerville or San Antonio
A standardized screening tool will be used to identify families who are eligible to enroll and who will benefit from the program
healthy families america
gki great kids, inc.
This has been funded by Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), for more information please contact
664-4030/33/35

COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
NOTICE OF MEETING
OF THE
CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider through the Coastal Resources Management Office (CRMO) hereby give notice that a CRM Agency Officials Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, August 13, 2013, at 10:00 A.M.** at the CRM Office located behind the Department of Public Safety Bureau of Motor Vehicle in Susupe.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
a) Call to Order
b) Roll Call

II. PERMIT APPLICATION

KALABERA CAVE DEVELOPMENT - CRM PERMIT NO. SMS-2013-X-049
a. Permit Application Summary
b. Discussion by CRM Agencies/CRMO
c. Permit Application Status

SAIPAN SURFRIDER LLC - CRM PERMIT NO. SMS-98-X-070(2013 AMEND)
a. Permit Application Summary
b. Discussion by CRM Agencies/CRMO
c. Permit Application Status

TASI HOMES DEVELOPMENT - CRM PERMIT NO. SMS-2013-X-031
a. Permit Application Summary
b. Discussion by CRM Agencies/CRMO
c. Permit Application Status

III. OTHER MATTERS

IV. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ ANA C. AGULTO
Acting Administrator

CALL YOUR SENATOR

"NO".....MEANS...."NO"

*Without **your** voice to **STOP it**, the Senators will approve Saipan CasiNOs.*

*Tell the Senators that **CasiNOs are NOT WANTED on Saipan!***

The RICH will get RICHER, the rest of us will SUFFER!

Don't believe their LIES!
"No...MEANS..NO"

CasiNO!

***NO** to Drugs*
***NO** to Crime*
***NO** to Poverty*
NO to CasiNO

Over 80 take part in library summit

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

More than 80 library staff and archivists from across the Pacific attended the 23rd Annual Pacific Island Association of Libraries and Archives, or PIALA, conference on Saipan last month.

The summit was organized by the CNMI Association of Archives, Libraries, and Museums and its president, Chris Todd, said the delegates came from Guam, American Samoa, Yap, Marshall Islands, Chuuk, Pohnpei, Hawaii, Palau, the CNMI, and others.

The delegates represented public libraries, college and university libraries, archives, elementary and high school libraries, museums, and government libraries.

The theme of the 2013 PIALA conference was "Our Libraries, Archives, & Museums (LAMS): Bridging our Past with our Future."

The focus of the conference was to provide library services in the modern era, while recognizing the history and distinctive needs of respective island communities, according to Todd, who is the acting director and academic librarian of the Olympio T. Borja Library at the Northern Marianas College.

Day 1 of discussions had Brigham Young University's Rose Ram taking about "Focusing on Student Learning and Tools for Assessing Information Literacy."

She was followed by University of North Texas' Imengel Mad who presented "Library Resource Sharing and Networking in Micronesia."

Paul Drake, a 35-year librarian, then spoke about "Consumer Health Outreach: What is Being Done and What We Can Do" followed by Jennifer Hainrick and Jayleen Kokis who made a presentation on "Collaborating with Faculty to Develop Library Collections."

Justin Masga, a cataloger at Feleti Barstow Public Library, ended the day's discourse with "Library Advocacy: Targeting Young Adults"

Paul Drake and Monique Storie started Day 2 with "Sharing Juvenile and Young Adult Books" followed by Lauren Bartell's "Doing History with the Public in the Information Age." Bartell is the Michigan coordinator for the National Information Literacy Forum's Reclamation Project.

Joeten-Kiyu Public Library volunteer Meena Benavete took the podium with her paper "School Libraries and Achievement for At-Risk Students" followed by University of North Texas' Rosalyn Ajoste who discussed "Don't Forget the Librarians as Partners in Special Education."

The final presenter of the summit was PIALA president Atarino Helieisar, who talked about "Understanding Performance Management and Solving Performance Problems!"

Aside from the presentations and discussions, the summit also had several interactive activities that encouraged participant feedback and networking with library professionals throughout the Pacific region.

Joeten-Kiyu Public Library Children's Library associate Erlinda C. Naputi and her staff also organized a tour of the public library on the final day of the summit.

Todd said the 2013 PIALA would not have happened without the contributions of several key people, including Naputi, Greg P. Sablan, Cathy Borja-Flores, Patty Aquon-Cruz, Della Jean Angel, and Celina C. Foreman.

Established in 1991, the Pacific Islands Association of Libraries, Archives and Museums is a regional association committed to fostering awareness and encouraging cooperation and resource sharing among libraries, archives, museums, and related institutions of the Pacific Islands.

COURTESY VISIT OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

U.S. Customs and Border Protection Saipan Port Director Rene Masculino, left, introduces Steven King, right, the new USCBP Port Director for Guam, to Gov. Eloy S. Inos during a courtesy visit to the Office of the Governor last week.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 5th birthday to our beloved son, Israel Jr. B. De Leon, and welcome to the Christian world, baby Ian James B. De Leon! Greetings come from your loving parents, Jen and Israel.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COMMONWEALTH COALITION OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS

'Enticing more CPS members while maintaining standards a challenge'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The president of the Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools, Galvin Deleon Guerrero, said yesterday that the organization is faced with a dual challenge of encouraging more members while also maintaining minimum standards for academic quality.

Deleon Guerrero, who is also the private school representative on the Board of Education, said the organization's membership has increased to 13 educational institutions, from the 10 that he reported to the board just two months ago.

The coalition now includes Agape Christian School, Brilliant Star Montessori, Grace Christian Academy, Green Meadows School, Golden Harvest International School, Joshua Generation International Academy, Marianas Baptist Academy, Mount Carmel School, Saipan Community School, Seventh-Day Adventist School, Saipan International School, Sister Remedios Early Childhood Development Center, and Whispering Palms School.

Deleon Guerrero, who is also president of Mount Carmel School said that, to the best of his knowledge, these schools are current in their membership requirements.

Membership in the coalition is voluntary and any non-public school may be a member, under the requirements listed in the coalition's articles of corporation that are filed with the CNMI Attorney General's Office.

The coalition has already begun revisiting its membership requirements and will encourage those who are not members to join the organization in the upcoming school year, while ensuring that these schools meet minimum standards of academic quality.

"Given the challenges of the economy, we are all doing our best to support families who choose to send their children to private schools," according to Deleon Guerrero.

He said the coalition also appreciates the continued support of the CNMI Board of Education and the Public School System, who continue to reach out and engage private schools in professional development and support for all children.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

August 7, 2005

Veterans not angry but still distant

TINIAN—American World War II veterans said they are happy to be back on Tinian to celebrate the 60th commemoration of the Atomic Mission to Japan, but admitted they are not particularly looking forward to meeting their Japanese counterparts. "I'm very thankful that I'm back here. I'm very grateful to be here but I have no plans to do that," said 509th Composite group pilot W. Locke Easton when asked yesterday if he has plans to meet with Japanese veterans. Easton was supposed to be the pilot of the third atomic mission to Japan, if the country didn't surrender unconditionally following the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings. Both groups—U.S. and Japanese veterans—are being hosted by the Tinian local government at the same time for the commemoration of the 1945 atomic mission to Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

'Peace is possible'

NORTH FIELD, Tinian—"I am for peace," said 81-year-old Leon Smith yesterday as he stood before fellow U.S. veterans, family members, local residents and guests to deliver his remarks on the 60th commemoration of the Atomic Mission to Japan. Smith, was on this site 60 years ago to help put together the world's single most dreadful weapon, the atomic bombs that were to be dropped on Hirsohima and Nagasaki. Smith said, though, that he recognizes that U.S. has preserved peace over the last 60 years largely due to its nuclear might. "That [achieving peace] is a remarkable accomplishment," he said.

August 7, 2006

Fund justifies filing in local court

NMI Retirement Fund board chair Joseph Reyes said his team chose to file its lawsuit against the government in the local court rather than in the U.S. District Court "because it is mainly [about] local issues." Reyes conceded that the board had been advised against bringing the case to the Superior Court for "possible conflict of interest." "There are some who advised us to file it in the district court but we were also advised that these issues are local matters so we opted to bring it to the local court," said Reyes.

Minimum wage talks in DC 'not over yet'

Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio warns that discussion on the minimum wage in the U.S. Congress is not over and the Commonwealth should be proactive if it wishes to keep its current wage level. In a letter to the governor and legislative leaders, the Commonwealth representative in the nation's capital said there is tremendous pressure on the Republican members of the U.S. House of Representatives to include the CNMI in any legislation that would raise the federal minimum wage. According to Tenorio, the Democrats are using the CNMI and its past ties with former House Majority Leader Tom DeLay and disgraced lobbyist Jack Abramoff "as political ammunition against the vulnerable Republicans."

August 7, 2007

Fitial refutes DOI trafficking report, calls for apology

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has submitted a supplementary statement to the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, addressing issues raised by the Department of the Interior and questions posed during last month's committee hearing on labor and immigration. In his statement, Fitial refuted the testimony of David Cohen, the deputy assistant secretary for Insular Affairs, who presented testimony at the July 19, 2007, U.S. Senate committee hearing regarding Senate Bill 1634, which would extend a federally designed and managed guest worker program to the CNMI.

PSS seeks businesses for career fair

The CNMI Public School System's Cooperative Education & Training Program is seeking the help of island businesses for its annual Career Fair set on Aug. 15. Co-op coordinator and Marianas High School faculty Tyce Mister said the program is once more asking the business community to provide training opportunities for senior students. Saipan's senior public high school students from the Cooperative Education & Training Program and SPED Transitional Job Training would be participating in the program. Mister said there are about 85 students in the program right now.

NMC offers more online courses this fall

The Northern Marianas College is offering more courses online this fall 2013 semester to meet the needs of working individuals, students on Tinian and Rota, and also those who benefit from more flexible class hours.

The variety of online courses at NMC may be entirely online or may be a "hybrid" course, which is a course that blends both online instruction and face-to-face interaction between students and instructors. Those who are planning to register for an online or hybrid course this fall semester are highly encouraged to attend the NMC online orientation offered by the Office of Distance Learning Education.

The orientation is designed to better prepare students for online and hybrid courses and will cover topics such as attendance, interactivity, netiquette, software and system requirements, online success tools, and time management tips. There will orientations for students on Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

The NMC online orientation will be 2.5 hours in length and a certificate of participation will be awarded to those who attend. Students are also requested to bring their NMC student email, registration information, or valid photo I.D. to the orientation.

■ Aug. 12: Orientation for online students on Tinian (1pm, NMC Tinian Instructional Site's Room D)

■ Aug. 13: Orientation for online students on Rota (1pm, NMC Rota Instructional Site's VTC Room)

■ Aug. 14: Orientation for online students on Saipan (1pm, Room W-2)

■ Aug. 15: Orientation for online students on Saipan (9am, 1pm or 5pm, Room W-2)

Those unable to attend the NMC online orientation can access helpful resources online at courses.nmcnet.edu by using their NMC student email to create a new account on NMC online if they do not have one.

Note that attendance at these orientations does not exempt the mandatory attendance for all courses on the first day of class time and location as listed on the fall 2013 class schedule. For more information about the NMC online orientations or online courses at NMC, contact Amanda Allen, director of Distance Learning Education, at 234-5498 Ext. 6722 or email amanda.allen@marians.edu. ***(NMC)***

JKPL offers ukulele class this summer

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library is offering a summer ukulele class from Aug. 13 to Aug. 29 at the state library's Children of our Homeland Library.

Children's Library associate Erlinda Naputi said the class is open to children 8 years or older and adults and encompasses eight hours. It costs $50 and will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4pm-5:30pm.

Two types of lessons will be taught—beginner and intermediate. Students who passed the second level of Larry Lee's previous ukulele class will be able to register for the intermediate class, while new students or those who want to refresh their ukulele skills can register for the beginners' class.

First week

■ Tuesday, Aug. 13, 4pm-5-:30pm

■ Thursday, Aug, 15, 4pm-5-:30pm

Second week

■ Tuesday, Aug. 20, 4pm-5-:30pm

■ Thursday, Aug. 22, 4pm-5:30pm

Third week

■ Tuesday, Aug. 27, 4pm-5-:30pm

■ Thursday, Aug. 29, 4pm-5-:30pm

The ukulele class' minimum enrollment is 15 students but it can accommodate as much as 40. Registration is on a first-come, first-paid basis.

Students must provide their own ukuleles and a folder to hold music sheets (Plastic sheet protectors and a three-ring binder are recommended).

Parents/guardians must also fill a liability waiver form on behalf of their participating children and must adhere to public library policies and procedures.

For more information, visit the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library in Susupe or call 235-7316 or 235-7322-23, Fax 235-7550. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-13-022

SALARY ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Office of the Executive Director is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified consultant or consulting firm to review and revise the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation's current Salary Administration Program (SAP), including the development of a performance management rating and payment system.

The RFP package and the scope-of-work may be obtained upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $ 100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on **August 8, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-13-022, Salary Administration Program", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **August 27, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

Offerors will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing no later than **August 12, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Frankie Cepeda, CUC Human Resource Manager via email frankie.cepeda@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all offers and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-13-024

TANK # 103, 120 & ISO TANKS CLEANING AT CUC POWER PLANT NO. 1, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the Tank Nos. 103, 120 & ISO Tank Cleaning at CUC Power Plant, Lower Base, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The "CUC" or "Corporation" currently operates multiple diesel engine generators at its Power Plant Nos. 1 and No. 2, Lower Base, Saipan, CNMI. The CUC is soliciting proposals from experienced contractors or specialist firms experienced in the cleaning of fuel storage tanks up to 1 M USG capacity.

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) and the United States District Court entered into a Stipulated Order Number Two (SO No. 2) for Preliminary Injunctive Relief under Civil Case No. CV 08-0051 (Section 1.1). The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) filed the civil action seeking injunctive relief under the Clean Water Act (CWA), and the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This work shall satisfy the requirement in Section IV, Oil Spill Prevention and Preparedness, Paragraphs # 28 Tank System Integrity Testing Work plan and Implementation for CUC Power plants 1 and 2 Integrity Inspection Program. The Power Plants 1 and 2 are located at the Lower Base Industrial Area near Saipan seaport, in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). It is the corporations' desire to undertake cleaning of the Bulk tank # 103, as soon the new tank #102 under construction is commissioned:

The work shall be done in two phases:
- **Phase 1 - Tank #103 (840,000 gal.)**
- **Phase 2 – Miscellaneous tanks – Tank # 120 (20,000 gal.) & ISO tanks, 2 ea. – 6,350 gal.**

The RFP package may be obtained upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $50.00 for one set from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Proposal Conference followed by a site visit, will be held on **August 12, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Power Plant No. 1 Conference Room in Lower Base, Saipan.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"TANK # 103, 120 & ISO TANKS CLEANING AT CUC POWER PLANT 1, SAIPAN",** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **August 29, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. Contract will be awarded to the most responsive proposers, as adjudged CUC and US EPA. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Proposal in the interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

All questions or request for clarification must be submitted in writing no later than **August 13, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Venugopal Prabhakara, CUC Power Generation Acting TMO via email address venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-13-025

TANK 103 OUT OF SERVICE (API 653) INSPECTION AT POWER PLANT NO. 1, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced engineering and certified specialist firms for the out of service inspection and integrity testing of the above ground oil storage tank (AST) # 103 and connected pipeline within the secondary containment at CUC Power Plant No. 1 in Lower Base, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) and the United States District Court entered into a Stipulated Order Number Two (SO No. 2) for Preliminary Injunctive Relief under Civil Case No. CV 08-0051 (Section 1.1). The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) filed the civil action seeking injunctive relief under the Clean Water Act (CWA), and the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This work shall satisfy the requirement in Section IV, Oil Spill Prevention and Preparedness, Paragraphs # 28 Tank System Integrity Testing Work plan and Implementation for CUC Power plants 1 and 2 Integrity Inspection Program. The Power Plants 1 and 2 are located at the Lower Base Industrial Area near Saipan seaport, in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The inspection is expected to be in two phases:
1. ***Out of service pre-repair inspection after tank cleaning, and***
2. ***Final tank inspection after performing the necessary repairs based on the scope of work developed during Phase 1.***

The RFP package may be obtained upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $50.00 for one set from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Proposal Conference followed by a site visit, will be held on **August 13, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Power Plant No. 1 Conference Room in Lower Base, Saipan.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"TANK 103 OUT OF SERVICE (API 653) INSPECTION AT POWER PLANT NO. 1, SAIPAN"**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **August 30, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. Contract will be awarded to the most responsive proposers, as adjudged CUC and US EPA. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Proposal in the interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

All questions or request for clarification must be submitted in writing no later than **August 14, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Venugopal Prabhakara, CUC Power Generation Acting TMO via email address venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Give America's caregivers a break

In the next two decades about 78 million baby boomers in the U.S. will turn 65. As they age, a portion of them will be cared for by their families, and others will no doubt enter facilities for the elderly. But many will rely on a growing cadre of domestic in-home workers. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, the demand for the kind of personal-care aides who can help cook, clean and bathe the elderly and disabled is expected to grow by 70 percent from 2010 to 2020.

Today, these caregivers often labor in conditions that would not be tolerated in any other industry. They work long hours—some are on call all night; others work 10, 11 or 12 hours straight without extra pay. Some are denied meal breaks because of the nonstop nature of their work. Many are not covered by the minimum-wage laws that govern almost all other jobs (although California workers are). And many are not covered by laws requiring overtime pay. (California workers are not.) In all, according to a national statistical study of domestic workers released last year, nearly half of all domestic workers do not earn enough to adequately support a family.

In-home caregivers were excluded from basic job protections when the Fair Labor Standards Act was passed in 1938, at a time when such work was generally part time and not typically done by a family breadwinner. Today, however, the vast majority of such workers are female heads of household, and care-giving is their primary occupation. It is time to bring these workers into the modern world.

Two proposals could help. One is a plan by the Obama administration to change federal labor rules to extend minimum-wage protections to in-home caregivers and to guarantee them overtime after a 40-hour week. Second—and simultaneously—there is a bill in the California Legislature that would provide overtime to those workers after an eight-hour day, and guarantee them badly needed meal breaks and the right to use their employers' kitchens to prepare meals. The two proposals complement each other, and both should be approved (although the California bill ought to be amended to match the federal proposal, providing overtime after a 40-hour week rather than an eight-hour day, thus providing more flexibility for workers and their employers).

Critics of these changes argue that requiring individuals and families to pay for such additional benefits could make in-home care prohibitively expensive for many families. And they're right to worry: The high cost of care for the elderly and the disabled is a serious problem that will only get worse as baby boomers retire. Society must begin to address that looming problem.

But to ease the burden on the elderly and the disabled by forcing their low-income caregivers to work without the basic labor protections that other Americans take for granted is simply not fair.

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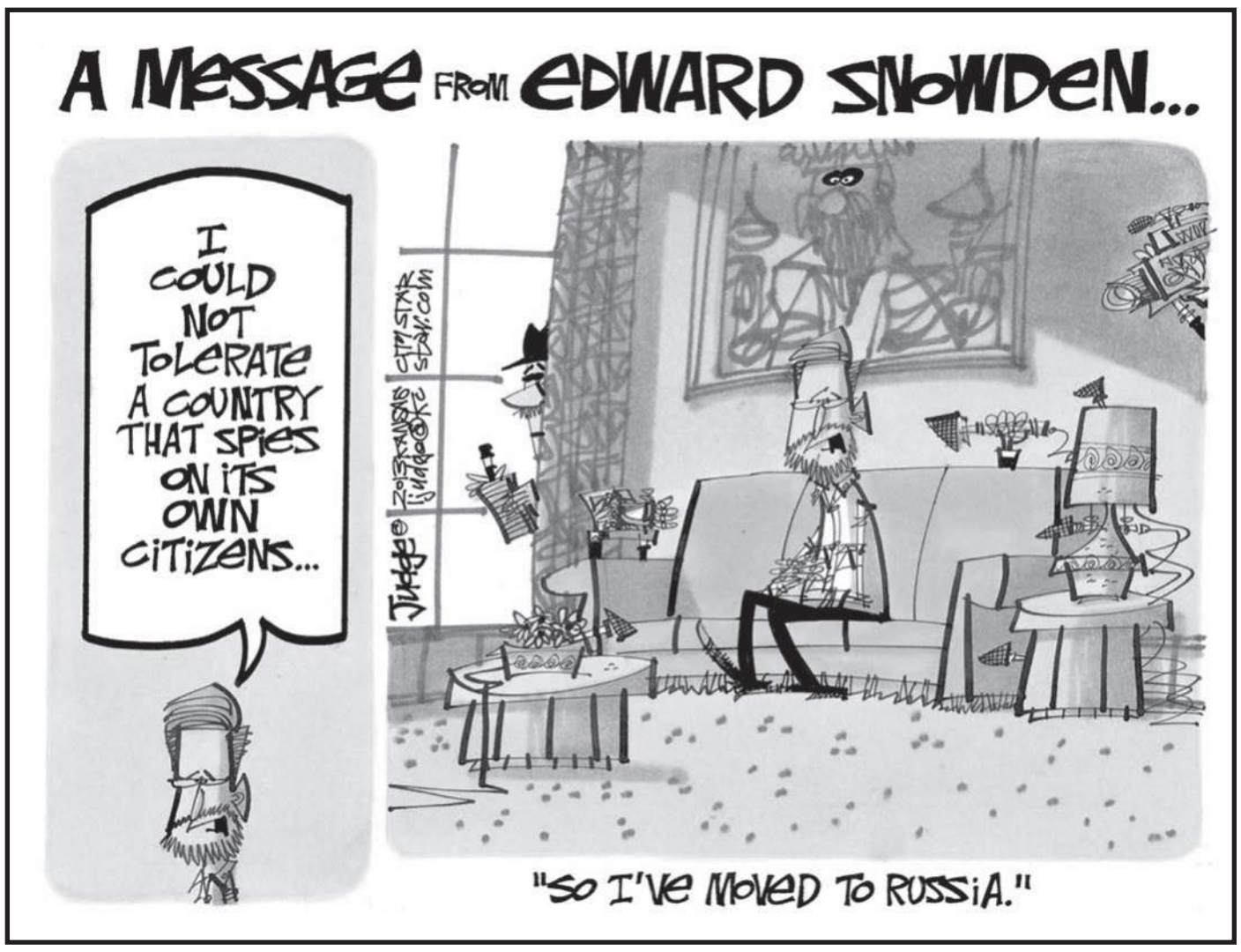
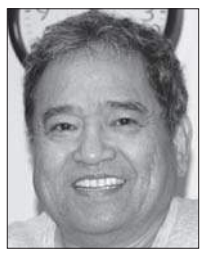


August one: a recollection

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.



We are still bedridden. It is summer in August. It is hot.

It was serendipitously providential that our flash modem ran out of juice on our birthday so we were off cyberspace for a day. We thought we had another week. Instead, the server prorated the charges and shut down the portal on the split second of the August moon!

We did not complain. Still nursing a terrible cyclosporiasis (the diarrhea that keeps us indoors), with knees definitely resisting to relearning the classic squat, we did not head anywhere distant from a western toilet.

Just as well. We planned to inventory the state of our physical wellbeing on d-day. To be symbolically prepared, we started with a thorough cleansing of the teeth (flossing under bridges and in-between caps) in honor of the dear cousins I grew up with on my father's side who became dentists, and my brother-in-law in Honolulu who keeps me in the bite.

My major task for the day was to attend to my 11th floor ledge garden. There are a couple of stragglers left on my floor, but my buddies are both out of town, so I could afford to be solitary. I have been propagating South African spider plants and they have become too robust for their planters that I had to move them to larger ones. In the process, I got 4-inch additional pots to the empty ones to transfer all 20 new outgrowths that have been on float for a week.

It was the inventory that drove the 68th (first day of the 69th) natal anniversary home. First, doing a *de quatro* used to come easy when cutting toenails and filing the dead skin off our sole. Not anymore. After the first time the calf went cramp, we decided to look for the neighborhood service to periodically do the toe clipping and dead skin cleaning. We are due our first visit next week! Before then, a few sit-ups will do the knees some good, and 10 lbs of weights on elbow stretching will counter the calcifying.

Second, we skipped the cup cake. We did not develop a sweet tooth growing up even with cocoa-common Sanchez Mira, Cagayan, but with a BMI of 30, we have the incentive to treat the treat as a threat.

Third, save for the skin of the extremities (head neck-up, hands below the wrist, and feet below the ankle), ours look and feel like it gets 'Dove' soap and oil daily. The university has an age limit of 65 for its teachers, and so far, we have survived under the radar! The Asian look can be age deceiving.

Let's skip the count. The sight needs reading glass assistance below 16 points; sights of bottoms-to-heels of the fairer sex are discernable at 2 miles distance. We ignore tops. The hearing is normal, and our taste buds bode no restrictions. "One by one, day by day, inhale, exhale, that's the way," remains our mantra, even with a record of 10 years smoking between the '70s and '80s. We do not do a double take on the Chanel 5 scent anymore, but that has nothing to do with our sense of smell. Fresh *ylang-ylang* is another story.

The digestive tract does not need oiling. We took out the gall bladder eight years ago. Regular massages on the spondylosis has banished discomfort, and when headaches occur, it is usually from shortage of sleep. Respiration gets heavy in walks, but we did six miles of mountain climbing in Wudangshan a week ago and the lungs took it in stride.

Now, the heart. We'd rather solve problems than gripe. We tend to accept first and complain last, if ever. We are eclectic and ecumenical in our preferences—religion, politics, and culture. Our tolerance threshold is rather high. Change is the order of life; stasis is an illusion. Search for security is the security blanket of the perennially insecure.

Certitude is for fools and the feeble mind. Ours do not discriminate save on those who take their metaphors of two universes and realms literally (heaven and hell, this life and the afterlife, etc.) Our sanctity is secular—this world in the here-and-now, in my mind—and those who explain life away in the cloak of special and exclusive knowledge of fate and destiny do not get much of an audience from me. Only death is certain, and even that does not announce when.

Money and I parted ways a long time ago but our basic survival skill is intact. The word "retirement" is in the foreign section of our lexicon. Eight years' worth of U.S. Social Security awaits another two to kick in benefits.

The earth is my home, so when I go, it will not matter where. For all I know, it could be in Norilsk if Putin will let non-Russians in. Cremated, buried, left to dry in a desert cavern, floated down the river, or cast to the ocean tide, are all the same. On the first day of my 69th year begins the fifth phase of my pilgrimage, the last 17 years into completion. Should completion occur before, *c'est la vie;* if after, we'll take the icing as it comes.

A grandson calls me *lao ye* (grandpa); the term is also used by spouses to refer to their "old man." I give permission to my students to call me *shen jing bing!* The tone of the saying determines whether it means "crazy nut case" or what a friend once meant when she patted my belly to beddy-bye.

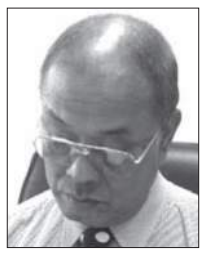
Check list done. Over and out.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

From the prism of a journalist

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*



Nearly 45 years ago, I started my government career as a DJ at the old KJQR Radio with, believe it or not, the now disgraced, impeached and terminal ingrate former governor Benigno R. Fitial.

I followed him everywhere, learning interview techniques. I was young and determined, plunging and rummaging into the endless horizon of a budding career in radio news. Strangely, I never had any inspiration or dream to become a journalist. I've probed it and it seems it's an assignment from upstairs.

Over four decades, I've seen the evolution of self-government take shape and substance on these pearly isles. A few folks stood their ground as leaders who are revered to this day. Others disappeared as historical statistics for lack of substantive contributions.

Indeed, there's our incipient engagement with partisan politics in the late '50s. It was our first blind opportunity to assemble a new contraption—a tricycle—even with a manual we can't read for it was written in English. We eventually figured out the beast after so many trial and errors.

I've listened to narratives on the issue of reintegration with Guam. Was the motive cultural similarity (unity) or minimum wage? We even used it as an argument but it failed to carry the day for more pennies, nickels and dimes. When this movement was floored—after a resounding rejection from Guam—our people focused on a relationship with the U.S. then known as direct annexation.

The elderly—who have seen war and famine—felt it was fitting embracing the largess of the feds. Amidst the economic hardship wrought by the departure of the Naval administration in 1961, they don't want to repeat joblessness and hopelessness on their children. While I fail to see it, it was solidly embedded in their prism. With a listless economy where many are jobless, do I stand a chance explaining the wisdom of economic self-support or the 200-mile EEZ?

Subsequently, the overwhelming majority approved the Covenant Agreement. In spite of our hopes and enthusiasm then, why is there such discontent with the current arrangement or relationship today? We wanted minimum wage; Uncle Same wishes securing sovereignty of the islands. Ours was money, therefore, never founded on our belief of first principles. As such the relationship is highly irregular, if not dysfunctional, after the seven-year guaranteed funding ended.

Over the last 35 years, as more of our folks are educated, they begin to see the shortsightedness inherent under the Covenant Agreement. It manifests, in no uncertain terms, how it was rammed down the throats of our parents who didn't know any better. If you critically pace the chronology of events in what was wrapped in the sugary coat of federal government largess—the main tool of divide and conquer—it was basically a document in neo-colonialism that leads back to the infamous design of the Solomon Report.

NMI shortcomings

For my purposes, I revisited the background of original negotiators. Most aren't necessarily equipped with credentials and vision to understand and articulate issues of depth they are obligated to see beyond the years. Across the room were professionals in every sense of the word.

The negotiator who sought for more time was former speaker Oscar C. Rasa. He had the benefit of being a member of the Micronesian Political Status Commission and NMI. He contrasted the two packages known as Commonwealth versus Free Association and wanted other substantive issues included. But the CNMI wanted its blue book and the federal largess that comes with it.

The Compact of Free Association included issues on long-term economic ramifications such as control and disposition of the 200-mile exclusive economic zone. However, it was new to the ears of our negotiators whose myopic view of economic freedom is limited to food stamps and other handouts. Its exclusion dampens hope for real economic freedom.

The U.S. finds dealing with the Micronesian group far more challenging given the superior caliber of negotiators on its side. It had to bring in what was announced then as the ABC News Team to cover the negotiations on Capital Hill. But it was an intelligence group (CIA or State Department's Bureau of Intelligence) that bugged the proceedings. When this was revealed, I was assigned to write an article for the Micronesian News Service. It became a banner story in *The Washington Post*. It was my first taste with real journalism or the newspapering business.

I've also seen some of my materials quoted in the prestigious *Wall Street Journal* (Asian Edition) on federal largess that instantly changed our tradition of individual industry to dependency on Uncle Sam. It also included other substantive issues.

Moreover, I quiz just how many of our folks sitting pretty in the so-called "circle of advocates" have actually read and understood the broad federal powers inherent under the Antiquities Act? Did you know that this group could dispose of its findings, i.e., oil and other minerals in CNMI's waters without our consent?

Despite the personal efforts, how sad that half the time it has fallen on deaf ears. The sea of atrophy is despicably astounding. Most folks elected to do policymaking aren't necessarily equipped with the wherewithal to do it right, their vision often limited to provincialism.

Indeed, I've presented compelling and strong arguments on substantive issues, though, sadly, it is not the same as having an argument that will prevail. So even though we may still have some breathing room with powerful economic and moral case, we're in the unfortunate situation of having to rely on politicians who are clueless on basically every front.

Anyway, in a nutshell I've highlighted an exciting journey and a fully rewarding career as a journalist and regional representative of the CNMI. It has enriched my professional horizon on many fronts. I will have it no other way!

Pope Francis' woman problem

By DIANE WINSTON
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Last week, Pope Francis loosed a media tsunami by dropping a pebble of sanity into an ocean of religious angst. "If someone is gay and he searches for the Lord and has goodwill, who am I to judge?" he told reporters on the flight back to Rome after his trip to Brazil.

What did it mean? Was he changing church teaching? And how might it affect 1.2 billion Roman Catholics worldwide?

Hundreds of news stories and thousands of blogs, tweets and commentaries later, most observers heard in Francis' statement a proposal to end his predecessor's hard line on homosexuality. Pope Benedict XVI had barred men with "deep-seated homosexual" tendencies from seminaries, calling homosexuality an "objective disorder." But Francis said gays who sought to live faithfully—that is, celibate—were not to be judged or excluded from the church.

By looking to the individual's heart instead of his genitals, Francis demonstrated a commitment to those who are neglected, marginalized and disenfranchised, as he repeatedly has done during his four-month papal tenure. Yet there is one group more numerous than LGBTs in the church and significantly more neglected, disenfranchised and marginalized—for whom his ministrations fall short.

Who, you ask? Roman Catholic women.

During the same interview on the papal plane, Francis said, "Women in the church are more important than bishops and priests," just as "Mary is more important than the apostles." Continuing, the pope said the church needed to develop a theology that addressed the role of women. But, he clearly stated, those roles would never include the ordained ministry because Pope John Paul II expressly forbade it. (I leave it to Catholic scholars and theologians to explain why Francis can all but countermand Benedict's directives on gays but not John Paul's on women.)

"That door is closed," Francis told reporters. Those are harsh words for millions of Catholic women worldwide. These include nuns whose communities have been beggared by declines in vocations and decreased institutional support, lay women whose leadership sustains parishes without full-time priests and girls seeking to discover their calling in a church where ordination in impossible.

Francis' remarks also have ramifications for millions of women worldwide whose poverty and exploitation have roots in their second-class religious status. And sadly, even if the world were full of female Catholic priests, Orthodox rabbis, evangelical preachers and Muslim imams, the problems of sex trafficking, prostitution, indentured servitude, honor killings, rape, genital mutilation and polygamy would not immediately disappear. Still, full recognition of women's religious calling and authority would be a start in dismantling theological justifications that enable sexism, misogyny and exploitation.

Reporters who headlined the pope's remarks on gays, knowing the story had more juice than Francis' condemnation of drug cartels and excoriations of poverty, treated his comments on women as an afterthought. That's because in the current media ecology of religion and public life, sex sells and gender gets a nod. (Forget religious leaders opining on violence, materialism or climate change. Unless Jesus himself appeared in a "Remember Sandy Hook" T-shirt to buy sunscreen at Wal-Mart, there's no story.)

But the ongoing negotiation of gender has been the American story since the 1960s. The advent of the birth control pill, severing sex and procreation, catalyzed profound changes in family life, the workplace and the marketplace. And the subsequent effect on politics and economics has been perhaps most vociferously debated in the religious sphere. Headlines on abortion, the culture war and "family values" have been a staple for decades now.

Reporters tell the daily story, inflected by the demands of the "sex sells" imperative. But the absence of sustained critical attention to social and cultural forces, including religion, keeps us reeling from headline to headline. Yes, Francis took a step forward in the church's treatment of gays. But he kept in place its bar to women.

And the import of that bar—its global reverberations in unwanted pregnancies, female poverty and sexual slavery—remains hidden in plain sight.

Diane Winston teaches media and religion at the University of Southern California's Annenberg School. She is editor of The Oxford Handbook on Religion and the American News Media. *She wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A chance at opportunities

I would like to share the following about some of my thoughts about the Northern Marianas I love:

1. I am saddened to note that only a few of our leaders have been standing up to fight for the interest of our local natives—Chamorros and Carolinians—the very people that the Covenant and our Constitution clearly intended to be the primary beneficiaries;

2. One major area of concern is the ongoing debate in the U.S. Congress about immigration reform where millions and millions of aliens will be getting U.S. citizenship. The impact in the U.S. will only be by a few percentage points but in the Northern Marianas, it will be by huge percentage points, more than enough to turn the political tide around in only a few years! And the consequences could be far-reaching in terms of balancing the social fabric of our small islands' population and society.

3. And when the current head of CUC says that CUC will be in a difficult position if its alien contract workers (with minimum wages) working there now are not renewed, I would like to say that that is only a self-serving opinion. During the U.S. Trust Territory days, we also had several ships in operation with smaller scale power generating plants but the manpower used then were 99 percent fellow Micronesians, trained through understudy and through trades schools in Hawaii and in the Philippines and other technical institutions abroad. The reason why CUC continues to hire outside personnel is because top management has no vision and no concern about the welfare of the local people, many of whom are very capable if only they are given the opportunity.

To continue to say that local Chamorros and Carolinians are incapable is demeaning and an insult to the people of the Northern Marianas. We now have good number of young and capable U.S. citizens who are looking for work opportunities. In fact, many are leaving us to Guam and to the United States where they are finding more decent job opportunities.

To our leaders: Can we all join forces and fight for our people at least for once? They need your help and support in a Northern Marianas that is quickly changing into place where our very own people continue to be left behind in greater numbers! We need more leaders who care and love the Northern Marianas!

In the next newspaper issues, I will touch upon some of the areas we must all come together—our people need our help and support!

Juan S. Demapan
San Vicente Village, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.
▲88° ▼77°

THURSDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.
▲87° ▼77°

FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲87° ▼76°

SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲87° ▼76°

SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼76°

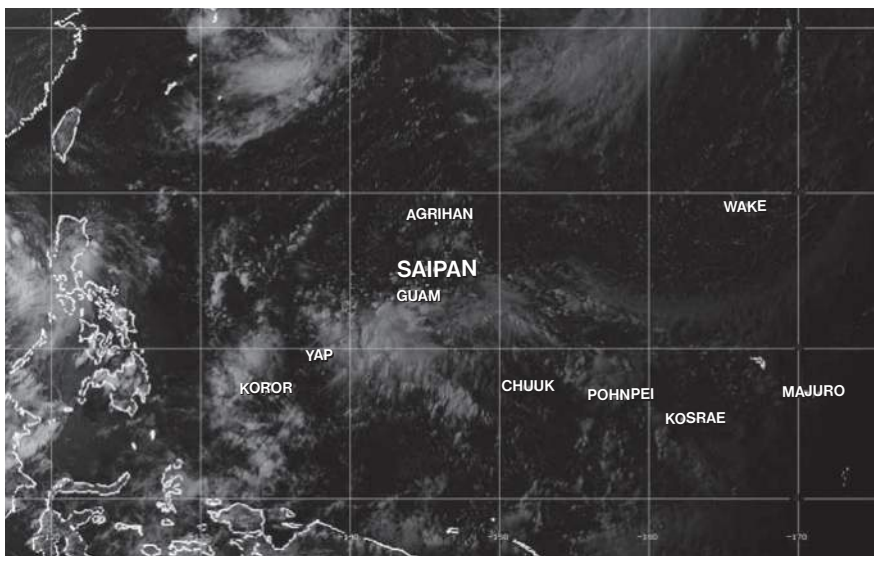
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲89	▼80
Palau	Showers	▲84	▼75
Yap	Showers	▲89	▼76
Chuuk	Showers	▲85	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲85	▼76
Kosrae	Showers	▲85	▼76
Majuro	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲63	▼55
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲92	▼69
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲89	▼82
Honolulu	Sunny	▲88	▼74
London	Partly Cloudy	▲76	▼60
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲77	▼60
Manila	Thundershowers	▲90	▼78
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲59	▼44
Miami	Thundershowers	▲88	▼79
New York	Thundershowers	▲74	▼71
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲94	▼80
Paris	Rain	▲72	▼55
Pusan	Windy	▲88	▼79
Rome	Sunny	▲94	▼74
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼59
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲57	▼53
Seoul	Cloudy	▲90	▼79
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲89	▼77
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲82	▼73

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A tropical disturbance is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near Guam between Yap and Chuuk within an area bounded by a line from 13N138E to 11N150E to 6N142E back to 13N138E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are also seen west of Yap and across Palau, south of a line from 5N130E to 12N135E to 12N137E. An upper-level trough across the CNMI is triggering isolated thunderstorms east of Saipan within 90 miles of a line from 18N147E to 14N150E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Kosrae south of a line from EQ160E to 4N162E to EQ168E and north of Pohnpei between 7N and 10N from 156E to 159E. A surface trough stretches northeastward from 6N172E to beyond the date line at 12N. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are present near Majuro within 150 miles of a line from 6N173E to 10N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:04 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
8:10 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
3:17 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
9:51 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:01 AM	6:45 PM
Thursday	6:01 AM	6:44 PM
Friday	6:01 AM	6:44 PM
Saturday	6:01 AM	6:43 PM
Sunday	6:02 AM	6:43 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:01 AM	6:47 PM
Thursday	6:50 AM	7:27 PM
Friday	7:39 AM	8:07 PM
Saturday	8:29 AM	8:47 PM
Sunday	9:20 AM	9:29 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 23, 2013

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:35am	9:25am	Daily
UA5074	11:20am	12:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	4:10am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-KHABAROVSK (KHV)

SYL9950	6:40pm	1:30am+1	7

SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)

XF1734	4:15pm	10:30pm	4 Every other week eff May 16

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	6 via GUM
UA5062/191	4:50am	9:55am	3 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:05pm	Daily via NRT
UA5068/PR111	8:35am	4:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
US5074/PR111	11:20am	4:35pm	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
OZ604/745	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA5073	10:00am	10:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5062	3:45am	4:20am	1, 3, 5
UA5038	11:15am	11:50am	6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	1, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	7:55pm	3:10am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

KHABAROVSK (KHV)-SAIPAN

SYL9949	12:45pm	5:20pm	7

VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN

XF1733	11:20am	3:25pm	4 Every other week eff May 16

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

PR110/UA5072	7:55am	6:25pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
DL172/288	8:00am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
UA184/5071	11:35pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:05am+1	3, 6 GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Former residents' passionate plea to spare N. Islands

Annalee Camacho Villagomez.

Dennis Chan.

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Former Northern Islands residents and even an election staff who visited the place last year became emotional when they talked about the U.S. military's plan to use Pagan as a live-fire training site during the start of a history lecture series organized by the 12th Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council and the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library last Wednesday.

Councilman Diego Kaipat has been distributing "Save Pagan" stickers to everyone he meets and hopes the Department of Defense's plan to use the island as a firing range doesn't materialize.

"It's one of the best and most beautiful island we have here in the CNMI. It would be sad to see it destroyed to the point that nobody can live there anymore. FDM [Farralon de Mendinilla] has already been demolished out of existence," he said during his turn as resource speaker in the "Northern Islands Frontier: A Moment in Time."

Pedro Pangelinan Castro.

Kaipat was born in Agrihan but left the island after the family's copra plantation was devastated by a typhoon. His family relocated to Pagan where he grew up before moving to Saipan due to a volcanic eruption.

Tomasa Taman Ada.

"Hope our leaders would first visit the islands before they make a decision. It will be a right decision if you know what you're deciding on. See it and experience it first hand. Not doing so will make a wrong decision," said the retired nurse.

Kaipat eventually wants to return to Pagan and farm and raise livestock there like what his family used to do.

Pedro Pangelinan Castro, for his part, appealed directly to Gov. Eloy S. Inos to do everything in his power to prevent the use of Pagan as a firing range by the U.S. military.

Castro hopes CNMI leaders will designate Pagan and other islands in the Northern Islands for homestead use instead.

"I hope our elected leaders, Gov. Eloy S. Inos first and foremost, will ask the military to reserve the island for future homestead applicants. I hope our leaders will take action and say no to using Pagan as a firing range. I talked to a representative of the U.S. military which wants to turn Pagan into another livefire range. The reason they are proposing that, he says, is because the Northern Islands people don't have title to the lands that they've been living on for many, many years."

Catsro moved to Pagan when he was just 3 months old and lived there for 30 years before being forced to move to Saipan when the island's active volcano erupted.

"Pagan can be used as a homestead for thousands of CNMI residents who want to build a home on their own land. There are currently a lot of pending homestead applications. My daughter, for instance, has been waiting for 19 years."

For Tomasa Taman Ada, she opposes the U.S. military plan to turn Pagan into another Farallon de Mendinilla simply because she wants to go back there.

"I don't agree with the U.S. military's plan of destroying the islands. We want to go back and start planting and raising animals there. There's a lot of cows, goats, and pigs there. I want to go back home. There's no place like home… Although my parents passed away, I still have it in my head that I want to go home," she said, her voice cracking a couple of times.

Ada was born and raised on Agrigan but moved to Saipan to pursue high school and college to become a teacher.

The most emotional plea that evening came from Commonwealth Election Commission staff Analee Camacho Villagomez.

Villagomez stayed in Alamagan for a few months and became attached to the beauty and serenity of the island and now feels strongly for Northern Islanders to be allowed to move up.

Diego Kaipat.

"Let's not give away Pagan. We won't be able to go up there anymore if that [live-fire training] happens. They're already bombing FDM…I'm afraid the military will destroy the Northern Islands," she said, tears trickling down her cheek.

Villagomez said the CNMI government seems to think that money allocated to the Northern Islands will only be wasted. However, she said people living there only have simple needs but need them badly.

"I want to go back because… people up there really need our help. …I'm touched by how people there lived simply…a lot of Northern Islanders still want to go back there."

Another presenter was University of Guam student Dennis Chan who wrote a book, *Northern Islands,* after visiting the place four years ago.

Chan spent 10 days of "discovering the rich and bountiful untouched islands" as a prize for winning an essay contest in 2009. He wishes his peers would have a chance to visit and appreciate the Northern Islands.

"The whole experience was a novelty and something I would never forget. Growing up on Saipan and being jaded because the island is so small. But going up there, it's a new frontier. I was bewildered and it made me think that this is part of my islands and part of my heritage as a CNMI resident and after returning I wished other kids will have a chance to go."

Chan himself plans to return to the islands in 2014 after graduating from college.

Aside from the Municipal Council and the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, the lecture series is also sponsored by the NMI Humanities Council, Historic Preservation Office, and the NMI Museum.

The lecture series on the Northern Islands will be followed by the "Marianas Trench Marine Monument" set for Aug. 14, from 5pm to 6pm also at the JKPL.

The purpose of the lecture series is to document the speakers and lecturers and then mass produce the material for distribution to the CNMI's elementary schools, junior high schools, high schools, and even at the Northern Marianas College.

Pacific Judicial Council here for 3-day conference

NMI JUDICIARY

From left, CNMI Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja, NMI District Court Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, Pohnpei Supreme Court Chief Justice Benjamin Rodriguez, Guam Supreme Court Justice Robert C. Torres, CNMI Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro, CNMI Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts Pretrial and Probation Administrator Michelle Spidell, Assistant Deputy Chief Probation Officer James Schloetter of the Northern District of California (San Francisco), District Court of Guam Chief Justice Frances Tydingco Gatewood, Chief Probation Officer Christopher Hansen of Solano County, California, and Renee Lorda, Assistant Circuit Executive for Judicial Conference and Education.

CNMI Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro kicked off yesterday the three-day 2013 Pacific Judicial Council conference, called "Probation and Pretrial Officer Training," with a warm welcome to participating justices and judges from neighboring judiciaries as well as to Gov. Eloy S. Inos and NMI District Court Judge Ramona V. Manglona. He then introduced the knowledgeable and experienced group of presenters who will be addressing the probation officers and the other conference attendees on the theme, "Changing Islanders' Lives and Building Promising Futures."

Following the opening remarks, the program started the morning session with representatives from each district sharing the challenges they have experienced when working with mentally ill clients. The morning session concluded with Michelle Spidell, Pretrial and Probation Administrator, Administrative Officer of the U.S. Courts, offering ideas on how to stretch limited resources.

In the afternoon session, Rossanna Villagomez-Aguon, U.S. Chief Probation Officer, U.S Probation Guam and CNMI, joined Spidell to discuss supervision and management of sex offenders.

On days two and three, presenters will address presentencing report writing and the challenges encountered with searches and seizures. Among the presenters, panelist, and facilitators will be Frances Tydingco Gatewood, chief judge, District Court of Guam; Benjamin Rodriquez, chief justice, Pohnpei Supreme Court; Robert J. Torres, associate justice, Supreme Court of Guam and chairman, Pacific Judicial Council Education Committee; Robert C. Naraja, presiding judge, CNMI Superior Court; Joseph N. Camacho, judge, CNMI Superior Court; Aniota A. Sukola, judge, Guam Superior Court; Ramona V. Manglona, chief judge, CNMI District Court; Christopher Hansen, chief probation officer, Solano County; James M. Schloetter, assistant deputy chief probation officer, U.S District Court, Northern District of California; Todd Price, special agent, FBI, CNMI; and John Lizama, chief probation officer, Judiciary of Guam.

On hand from the CNMI Office of Adult Probation are Ursula Lifoifoi-Aldan, chief probation officer, and Simram Simram, supervising probation officer.

The conference concludes on Thursday. ***(NMI Judiciary)***

DEQ responds to comments on revised pesticide regulations

The Division of Environmental Quality has published its amendments to the proposed pesticide regulations in the *Commonwealth Register* on July 28. The amendments are based on comments received during the previous publication in the *Commonwealth Register* on Jan. 28, 2013 (*Commonwealth Register* Volume 35, No. 1, and Docket No. 033145).

"The reason for the new regulation is to ensure the proper management of pesticide use, sale and that state [local] requirements also meet the federal standards and as well as practices that are applicable to the islands," said Reina Camacho, manager for the pesticide program.

Based on comments submitted and other concerns, DEQ has determined to modify the proposed regulations, publish them in the *Commonwealth Register*, and provide another 30-day comment period. The proposed pesticide regulations have been updated and are available at http://deq.gov.mp/artdoc/Sec7art227ID815.pdf as well as in the *Commonwealth Register*.

Overall, the changes to the proposed pesticide regulations based on the comments are summarized as follows:

CERTIFICATION

Comments received regarding certification, specifically renewal of certification.

Response: DEQ revised the language relating to continuing education units. Continuing education units, or CEUs, shall remain at 12 units per certification period. Twelve CEUs is approximately 12 hours of an applicator's time. The CEU option requires the certified applicator to take initiative and responsibility to maintain his or her certification. The private applicator CEU minimum was revised from three CEUs to six CEUs.

ON THE NET

http://deq.gov.mp/artdoc/Sec7art227ID815.pdf

Comments received about certification fees.

Response: DEQ determined to maintain the proposed fee of $50 for commercial applicators and $10 for private applicators, instead of retaining the current fees of $300 for commercial applicators and $100 for private applicators. While DEQ is reducing the fee, DEQ is making the examination for initial certification and continuing education requirement to renew more comprehensive and thus, stricter, making it more difficult to obtain a certification to apply pesticides. Moreover, the fee of $50 is comparable to the fee assessed by the University of Hawaii, Guam EPA, or University of Guam, as well as other states in the continental U.S.

IMPORTATION

Comments received about importation of pesticides.

Response: The language regarding importation of pesticides was not modified based on the comments, as the standard appeared to be misunderstood. DEQ would like to emphasize that only certain types of pesticides are legal for importation: any pesticide that does not have an EPA registration or establishment number is considered misbranded, and therefore, illegal. Illegal pesticides shall not be approved for entry into the CNMI. However, products that may be imported and thus require the submission of a Notice of Intent to Import and Notice of Arrival are: a) any restricted use pesticide from any country into the CNMI; b) any pesticide or pesticide device manufactured in or shipped by or through a foreign country; c) any termiticide, including those used for crack, crevice, and spot treatment; d) any pesticide used to control pests on fruit and/or vegetable crops or other agricultural products; and e) pesticides used for fumigation, hospital grade disinfection and commercial purposes.

OTHER/STANDALONE COMMENTS

There were other comments that did not fall under the preceding categories but did spur further changes to the proposed regulations. The following will be reflected as updates to the proposed pesticide regulations:

The phrase "other relevant information as deemed necessary, including but not limited to new developments and other pertinent information" was revised to state, "other recent updates in pesticide applications and other pertinent information."

DEQ added the language "applicable local and federal pesticide laws and regulations" as suggested.

DEQ added farm, nursery, green house, or forest area as part of the "Agricultural Establishment" definition.

DEQ added a new section to include pesticide applications in remote areas, requiring persons to submit a Pesticide Use Permit Application for Other Pesticide Treatment prior to any application.

DEQ reminds the community that the regulations apply to all persons that import, sell or distribute, use, handle and or apply pesticides.

For more information, visit the DEQ at the Gualo Rai Center on Chalan Pale Arnold; office hours are 7:30am until 4:30pm. Tel: 664-8500 and fax: 664-8540. To review the amendments, visit http://deq.gov.mp/artdoc/Sec7art227ID815.pdf.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Red Cross health and safety trainings

The American Red Cross is scheduled to conduct Preparedness Health & Safety training on the following dates:

- Wed., Aug. 14, at 5:30pm: Adult First Aid/CPR/AED Blended Learning
- Wed., Aug. 14, at 5:30pm: Adult CPR/AED Blended Learning
- Wed., Aug. 14, at 5:30pm: First Aid Blended Learning

Classes are held at the chapter training room on Airport Road. Blended Learning courses involve online courses with in-person skills exam and require at least 48-hour preregistration. Course fees apply. For more information on the courses listed or other certification courses, contact the chapter office at 234-3459 or visit www.redcross.org/take-a-class. ***(PR)***

CNMI readies for Exercise KONFITMA

The CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management Office is informing the public that the U.S. Army Pacific, in partnership with the Office of the Governor and the CNMI response community, will be conducting a 36-hour all-hazard Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Explosive situational training exercise.

Exercise "KONFITMA" is scheduled for Friday Aug. 9, to Saturday, Aug. 10, 2013, and will take place at various locations throughout Saipan: Garapan, Governor's Office, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., Kagman High School, Koblerville, As Gonno, Kagman II, San Roque, Marpi, and the ports of Saipan (airport and seaport).

To ensure the safety of the community, the HSEM and partner agencies ask that the public take extra precautionary measures when near any of the various exercise locations. For more information, contact the CNMI HSEM at 664-2216 or 237-8001/2/3. ***(Office of the Governor)***

Business

Amazon founder Bezos to buy Washington Post

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jeff Bezos, the Amazon.com founder who helped bring books into the digital age, is going after another pillar of "old media": The Washington Post.

Bezos, 49, struck a deal announced Monday to buy the venerable Washington broadsheet and other newspapers for $250 million. It was a startling demonstration of how the Internet has created winners and losers and transformed the media landscape.

Bezos pioneered online shopping, first by selling books out of his Seattle garage in 1995, then with just about everything else. In doing so, he has amassed a $25 billion personal fortune, based on the most recent estimates by Forbes magazine.

Meanwhile The Washington Post, like most newspapers, has been losing readers and advertisers to the Internet while watching its value plummet.

The newspaper, celebrated a generation ago for breaking the Watergate scandal, has been forced in recent years to scale back its ambitions, cut its newsroom staff repeatedly and close several bureaus.

Bezos is buying the newspaper as an individual. Amazon.com Inc. is not involved.

Washington Post Co. chairman and CEO Donald Graham called Bezos a "uniquely good new owner." He said the decision was made after years of newspaper industry challenges. The company, which owns the Kaplan education business and several TV stations, will change its name but didn't say what the new name will be.

Bezos said in a statement that he understands the Post's "critical role" in Washington and said its values won't change.

"The paper's duty will remain to its readers and not to the private interests of its owners," Bezos said in his letter to Post employees. "We will continue to follow the truth wherever it leads, and we'll work hard not to make mistakes. When we do, we will own up to them quickly and completely."

Katharine Weymouth, the newspaper's publisher and CEO and a member of the Graham family that has owned the newspaper since 1933, will remain in her post. She has asked other senior managers to stay on as well.

"Mr. Bezos knows as well as anyone the opportunities that come with revolutionary technology when we understand how to make the most of it," she said in a letter to readers. "Under his ownership and with his management savvy, we will be able to accelerate the pace and quality of innovation."

The news surprised industry observers and even the newspaper's employees.

"I think we're all still in shock," said Robert McCartney, one of the newspaper's Metro columnists and a 31-year veteran. "Everybody's standing around the newsroom talking about it. ... I don't think much work's getting done."

The email hit staffers' inboxes at 4:17 p.m. Eastern time. It summoned them to a meeting 13 minutes later.

Graham spoke at the staff meeting of how he has known Bezos for more than a decade, and described him as a decent and patient man, said McCartney.

Bezos built bookselling site into online empire

NEW YORK (AP)—Over nearly two decades, Jeff Bezos built Amazon from a scrappy online bookseller into an e-commerce empire, shook up the print publishing world with the Kindle e-reader and even started a space travel company.

Now he is buying The Washington Post for $250 million, purchasing one of the nation's most celebrated newspapers at a time when the print publishing industry is enduring steep declines in revenues and readership.

The question is, what happens now?

"There will of course be change at The Post over the coming years," Bezos wrote in a memo to Post employees published Monday on the paper's website.

"The Internet is transforming almost every element of the news business: shortening news cycles, eroding long-reliable revenue sources, and enabling new kinds of competition, some of which bear little or no news-gathering costs," he wrote. "There is no map, and charting a path ahead will not be easy. We will need to invent, which means we will need to experiment."

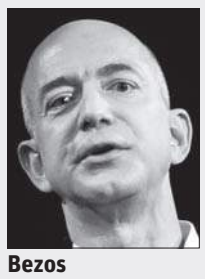
With Amazon, Bezos built an e-commerce empire that changed how we buy everything from books to toilet paper—first on the Web, and more recently on our phones. He is also a driving force behind the rise of digital content, launching the first e-reader that gained mass acceptance and challenging market leader Apple with the sale of downloadable music and movies.

It's not clear what Bezos will do with the Post. He told the newspaper in an interview that he doesn't want to imply that he has a specific plan.

"This will be uncharted terrain," he said.

Amazon declined to make Bezos available for an interview with The Associated Press.

He founded Amazon.com in 1994 after quitting a Wall Street hedge fund. Though at first he wasn't sure what he wanted to sell online, he already understood what an enormous impact the Internet would soon make. He decided on an online bookstore because it would enable people to browse through millions of titles with the click of a mouse.



Bezos

He and his wife, MacKenzie, whom he married in 1993, set out on road trip to Seattle, a city with an abundance of tech talent and proximity to a large book distributor in Roseburg, Ore. While MacKenzie drove, Bezos wrote up the business plan that would become Amazon.com.

With Bezos's parents and a few friends as investors, Amazon began operating out of the Bezos' Seattle garage on July 16, 1995. The first book sold on the site was no "Harry Potter" or "Fifty Shades of Grey." It was Douglas Hofstadter's "Fluid Concepts and Creative Analogies: Computer Models of the Fundamental Mechanisms of Thought."

The business grew much more quickly than anyone expected. During the first month, Amazon sent out orders to eager buyers in every state and in 45 different countries, and customers were soon clamoring for more than just books.

"We actually started to get emails from customers saying, 'Would you consider selling music, because I'd really like to buy music this way, and DVDs, and electronics?'" Bezos told the AP in 2005.

kindle
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(Newspaper)
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Customers Who Bought This Also Bought

AP

In this Monday, Aug. 5, 2013, photo, The Washington Post for Kindle application is displayed for purchase on an Amazon Kindle in New York.

AP

A new Cultured Beef Burger made from cultured beef grown in a laboratory from stem cells of cattle, is held by the man who developed the burger, Professor Mark Post of Netherland's Maastricht University, during a the world's first public tasting event for the food product in London, Monday Aug. 5, 2013.

Taste test: Lab-grown hamburger short on flavor

LONDON (AP)—The food of the future could do with a pinch of seasoning—and maybe some cheese.

Two volunteers who took the first public bites of hamburger grown in a laboratory gave it good marks for texture but agreed there was something missing.

"I miss the salt and pepper," said Austrian nutritionist Hanni Ruetzler. U.S. journalist Josh Schonwald confessed to a difficulty in judging a burger "without ketchup or onions or jalapenos or bacon." Both tasters shunned the bun, lettuce and sliced tomatoes offered to them to concentrate on the flavor of the meat itself.

Mark Post, the Dutch scientist who led the team that grew the meat from cattle stem cells, regretted having served the patty without his favorite topping: aged gouda cheese.

"That would have enhanced the whole experience tremendously," he told The Associated Press. He said he was pleased with the reviews: "It's not perfect, but it's a good start."

Post, whose team at Maastricht University in the Netherlands developed the burger over five years, hopes that making meat in labs could eventually help feed the world and fight climate change—although that goal is probably a decade or two away, at best.

"The first (lab-made) meat products are going to be very exclusive," said Isha Datar, director of New Harvest, an international nonprofit that promotes meat alternatives. "These burgers won't be in Happy Meals before someone rich and famous is eating them."

Sergey Brin, a co-founder of Google, announced that he funded the 250,000-euro ($330,000) project, saying he was motivated by a concern for animal welfare.

"We're trying to create the first cultured beef hamburger," he said in a videotaped message. "From there, I'm optimistic we can really scale up by leaps and bounds."

Scientists agreed that improving the flavor probably won't be hard.

"Taste is the least (important) problem since this could be controlled by letting some of the stem cells develop into fat cells," said Stig Omholt, director of biotechnology at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
15,612.13	1,707.14	3,692.95
-46.23	-2.53	+3.36
-0.30%	-0.15%	+0.09%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.1238	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7567	Philippine Peso	43.5540
British Pound	0.6229	Indian Rupee	61.2370	Singapore Dollar	1.2700
Canadian Dollar	1.0389	Indonesian Rupiah	10,330.5	South Korean Won	1,118.0
Chinese Yuan	6.1725	Japanese Yen	98.6193	Swiss Franc	0.9298
Euro	0.7567	Malaysian Ringgit	3.2490	Taiwan Dollar	29.9850
		New Zealand Dollar	1.2859	Thailand Baht	31.3873

Nation

Transient with jail record held in beach rampage

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The man suspected of being behind the wheel of a sedan that careened down the crowded Venice Beach boardwalk last weekend, killing an Italian newlywed on her honeymoon and injuring 16, is a transient who served brief stints in jail in Colorado, authorities said Monday.

Nathan Louis Campbell, 38, had been in the Los Angeles area a short time but had no fixed address, and police have been unable to find any evidence he was working.

Investigators believe Campbell, who was arrested for investigation of murder after he walked into a police station several hours after the rampage on Saturday, was driving his own car, Los Angeles police Cmdr. Andrew Smith said.

"I think we can safely say, when he turned himself in ... he implicated himself in the Venice incident," Smith said.

Investigators have yet to provide an explanation why the driver maneuvered around a vehicle barrier early that evening and plowed into tourists and vendors along the fabled walkway bordering the Pacific, killing Alice Gruppioni, 32.

AP

People look at a makeshift memorial for Italian newlywed Alice Gruppioni, 32, is seen on Ocean Front Walk at Venice Beach on Monday, Aug. 5, 2013, in Los Angeles.

Her new husband, Christian Casadei, was at her side. He suffered minor injuries.

In a statement Monday, he called his wife "an immense gift: a gift that no one can ever understand. She gave happiness and joy to anyone who had the luck to know her.

"About our love, you cannot say more than it will remain a dream from which we will never wake," he said.

One person was critically injured and two others were taken to hospitals in serious condition. The 13 others all received less severe injuries.

Little is known about Campbell, who is being held on $1 million bail. No relatives or close friends have emerged since the incident to talk about him, and police have revealed scant details.

Campbell lived in Colorado as recently as last year. He was evicted from his apartment in Denver for not paying $655 in rent in March 2012, records show.

He was sentenced to five days in jail after pleading guilty to shoplifting at a Denver supermarket in February 2009. Five months later, he was accused of trespassing at an outdoor mall in Denver and sentenced to 10 days in jail, court records show.

California authorities said no one with his name and birth date had a state driver's license.

Police have not yet presented their case to prosecutors, and Campbell was not expected in court until at least Tuesday.

Police said Campbell initially parked outside a hotel and surveyed the boardwalk, where hundreds of people were sitting at cafes, walking along the seashore or shopping for jewelry, art or other items at vending stands.

Surveillance video showed a driver getting into a Dodge sedan, steering around a vehicle barrier and careening through the crowd.

Two mannequins and an ATM were knocked down as the car started hitting people. It swerved from side to side, often running straight into victims. The car struck at least three vendors—a fortune teller, a couple selling jewelry and a woman tattoo artist.

Witnesses said the car was traveling at least 35 mph along the crowded boardwalk.

The car eventually turned up a side street and headed away from the ocean. The vehicle was abandoned less than two miles away.

People were "stumbling around, blood dripping down their legs, looking confused not knowing what had happened, people screaming," said Louisa Hodge, who described "blocks and blocks of people just strewn across the sidewalk."

A family dynasty gives up The Post

WASHINGTON (AP)—The newspaper forever known for Deep Throat and the unraveling of a presidency had a quieter distinction, too: a family's ownership through thick and thin, seemingly as immutable as the Washington Monument.

But just as an earthquake cracked the tower of stone, the ground now has shifted for The Washington Post.

Facing questions about the future of the newspaper business "to which we have no answers," Don Graham, whose grandfather bought the paper at a 1933 bankruptcy sale, announced in a letter to staff Monday that the paper had been sold to Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, closing the book on the storied paper's history as a family dynasty after seven straight years of declining revenue.

It's another watershed moment for an institution that first published in 1877, with a circulation of 10,000, bounced among owners both Democrat and Republican in its young life and encountered near-death experiences along the way.

Then Eugene Meyer, a California investor and member of the Federal Reserve, took the reins in the midst of the Depression, burnishing the paper's reputation and tripling its circulation before handing control in the 1940s to son-in-law, Philip L. Graham, a brilliant, brooding and mercurial figure who killed himself with a shotgun at his Virginia farm in 1963.

Control fell to his widow, Katharine Graham. And it was she who stirred the full fury of all the president's men when young reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein began unwrapping the Watergate saga that would destroy Richard Nixon's presidency—and inspire legions to take up investigative journalism for years ahead.

In one landmark revelation, the paper published a front-page story describing the 1972 burglary at Democratic headquarters at the Watergate offices as part of a massive campaign of spying and sabotage directed by White House officials and members of Nixon's re-election committee.

As told in Graham's memoirs, "Personal History," then-Attorney General John Mitchell, one of the implicated officials, let out a "primal scream" when told the story was coming, followed by an obscenity that The Post cleaned up for its readers. Graham, the amended quote read, is "gonna get caught in a big fat wringer." Nixon himself vowed The Post "is going to have damnable, damnable problems out of this one." Ultimately, he did.

Before the cascade of Watergate reporting and throughout that episode, The Post was—as it remains—in pitched competition as a voice of national influence with The New York Times, still a survivor in the dwindling list of powerful family-owned organs.

In 1971 The Times then The Post published explosive stories on the leaked Pentagon Papers, revealing the government's lies about the Vietnam War. Both fought attempts to suppress publication of the material. The case led to a First Amendment victory in the Supreme Court and a Pulitzer Prize for The Times one year before The Post won honors for its Watergate scoops.

In 2008 alone, the paper won six Pulitzers, recognized for exposing mistreatment of wounded veterans at Walter Reed Hospital, for its Virginia Tech massacre coverage, its series on private security contractors in Iraq, and more. Perhaps its darkest hour also involved a Pulitzer, won in 1981 for a Janet Cooke story that was fake.

To Martha Joynt Kumar, a Towson University historian of the presidency and the press, Watergate was but the most spectacular example of a continuing Post tradition of holding the bureaucracy to account. The paper's recent in-depth account of the structure and spending of the intelligence community and its 2007 series on questionable management operations at the Smithsonian museum complex—leading to the resignation of its chief—came immediately to her mind.

Ariz. wreck kills 3 young brothers, injures others

PHOENIX (AP)—Three young brothers being taken to school by their teenage brother who did not have a license died in a head-on collision Monday in southwest Phoenix, authorities said.

Phoenix police said a 16-year-old boy was driving six of his siblings to various schools in a minivan that didn't have any child seats installed and apparently none of the passengers were wearing seat belts.

Witnesses told police that the minivan's driver tried to pass a car on the shoulder of a road about 7:20 a.m., but overcorrected and veered into oncoming traffic and was broadsided by a sedan.

Three children in the minivan were ejected, according to Sgt. Trent Crump, a police spokesman.

Authorities said one of the boys was pronounced dead at the scene and the other two died later at hospitals.

The names of those killed weren't immediately released, but police said the boys were ages 5, 8 and 11.

The 16-year-old driver was hospitalized in stable condition. Police said the teen was unlicensed and had applied for a learner's permit.

Due to the severity of the crash and the multiple road violations, including driving without a license, police investigators were looking into filing criminal charges against the teen.

Police said the driver of the sedan—a man in his 40s whose name wasn't immediately available—was in critical condition along with a 4-year-old girl.

Two other people in the minivan—ages 12 and 14—were injured but expected to survive, authorities said.

The crash scene was near the Phoenix Union High School District, but police still haven't determined where the teen was driving his siblings. They said the driver and his 14-year-old brother were about to start their first year at La Joya Community High School in Tolleson.

ACROSS THE NATION

Obama to urge Congress to shutter Fannie, Freddie

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama, seeking to buffer taxpayers from future housing market downturns, will urge Congress this week to back bipartisan efforts to shutter Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the mortgage-giants bailed out by the government in 2008. Obama will also renew his calls for sweeping mortgage refinancing legislation when he travels to Phoenix Tuesday. Arizona's desert capital was the epicenter of the housing crisis that began in 2008, but the market there has rebounded strongly, with home prices up and foreclosures down. The president's visit to Phoenix marks the latest stop on his summertime economic tour aimed at refocusing his agenda on middle class Americans still struggling to fully recover following the recession.

3 shot dead at Pa. town meeting; shooter tackled

A gunman blasted shots through the wall of a Pennsylvania municipal building during a meeting on Monday and then barged into the meeting room and continued firing, killing three people, before he was tackled by a local official and shot with his own gun, a witness said. The shooting, which injured at least two other people, happened shortly before 7:30 p.m. during Ross Township's monthly meeting, Monroe County emergency management director Guy Miller said. The gunman, who appeared to be "shooting randomly," was captured and was treated at a hospital, which was placed on lockdown, he said. The shooter later was released into police custody, the hospital said.

Man fights to take license test in Hawaiian

HONOLULU (AP)—A Hawaii man has waged a court battle centered on his right to speak and write Hawaiian, saying his inability to take a driver's license exam in the language represents discrimination that violates the state constitution. Daniel Anthony was cited in January for driving without a license. He wants the case dropped and said Monday that he doesn't have a license because the test isn't offered in Hawaiian, despite its classification as an official language of the state, along with English. "Any time I go to a state office or federal office, I introduce myself in Hawaiian," he said Monday in English. "I have yet to receive services in Hawaiian."

Asia

Car bombing kills at least 8 in south Philippines

COTABATO CITY, Philippines (AP)—A powerful bomb apparently rigged to a vehicle exploded on a busy main road in a volatile southern Philippine city, killing at least eight people and wounding more than 30 others, officials said.

Troops and police closed off the area along Sinsuat Avenue in Cotabato city as firefighters and ambulances arrived at the chaotic scene during the Monday afternoon rush. Witnesses saw at least four people bloodied on the pavement as cars and buildings burned after the explosion.

The fire damaged power and telephone cables, causing power outages nearby, police said.

City police chief Senior Superintendent Rolen Balquin, said Tuesday that two victims had died overnight in the hospital, raising the death toll to eight. He said the dead included a police officer.

At least 33 people were wounded by bomb shrapnel and flying debris from cars and motorcycles damaged by the explosion, he said. Several were in serious condition among 13 who remained in the hospital Tuesday, he said.

Cotabato, a bustling trading hub 880 kilometers (545 miles) south of Manila, has been hit previously by bombings blamed on Muslim rebels and extortion gangs.

The bomb exploded Monday afternoon as a bulletproof SUV carrying city administrator Cynthia Guiani-Sayadi was passing by. She was not hurt but one of her police bodyguards in a security van was killed, officials said.

Balquin said they were looking at the possibility the attack could have targeted Guiani-Sayadi, a younger sister of Mayor Japal Guiani. He said the city administrator "had been receiving threats for the past few days."

Mayor Guiani said they have witnesses who have pointed to possible suspects and the mastermind of the attack but he declined to identify them.

National Police chief Alan Purisima ordered regional and provincial police offices in the southern Philippines to step up intelligence and security, particularly for soft targets such as commercial areas and other places where people converge, said police spokesman Senior Superintendent Reuben Theodore Sindac.

AP

Firefighters try to contain the fire from a powerful explosion in Cotabato city, southern Philippines on Monday Aug. 5, 2013.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Philippines adds 2nd major warship to fleet

SUBIC, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines is adding a second major warship to its fleet to challenge China's massive territorial claims that Filipino officials say intrude in their country's potentially oil-rich seas. President Benigno Aquino III led military and other officials Tuesday in receiving the 3,250-ton former U.S. Coast Guard cutter in ceremonies complete with a brass band and 21-cannon fire at the Subic Bay freeport. The ship has been renamed as Philippine navy frigate BRP *Ramon Alcaraz*. A part of the former U.S. naval base northwest of Manila will soon be turned into a Philippine military hub to shift its assets closer to the disputed islands in the South China Sea. A 3,390-ton cutter also from the U.S. Coast Guard became the Philippine navy's biggest warship in 2011.

US military helicopter crashes in Okinawa

TOKYO (AP)—A U.S. military helicopter crashed Monday at an American base on the southern island of Okinawa, and all four crew members are believed to have survived, Japanese and U.S. officials said. The HH-60 rescue helicopter, which belongs to Okinawa's Kadena Air Base, was on an unspecified training mission when it crashed at Camp Hansen, a U.S. Air Force statement said. Television footage showed smoke rising from a spot in the forest, with a mangled object that appeared to be the frame of the helicopter ablaze. The U.S. statement said the cause of the crash was not known, and did not elaborate on the condition of the four crew members on board.

Tibetan monk sets himself on fire in Nepal

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—A Tibetan monk set himself on fire in Nepal's capital Tuesday in what is believed to be the latest protest against Chinese rule over their homeland. The man set himself on fire near the Boudhanath shrine in the northeastern edge of Katmandu, police official Manoj Chetri said. He was taken to the Tribhuwan University hospital in critical condition with much of his body burned. The monk set himself on fire in an alley away from the crowd. Police and residents put out the flames with fire extinguishers and rushed him to the hospital. Police were investigating but have not been able to identify him beyond that he is a Buddhist monk.

Gunmen kill 13 bus passengers in Pakistan

QUETTA, Pakistan (AP)—A local official says gunmen have abducted and killed 13 bus passengers in southwest Pakistan. Kashif Nabi says the passengers were taken from a convoy of five buses Monday night heading from Baluchistan province to Punjab province. Tribal police found their bodies Tuesday in a nearby ravine. Nabi says paramilitary troops provide protection for bus convoys moving through Baluchistan. But the attackers distracted the troops by attacking a nearby oil tanker. The troops responded, and one soldier was killed. Another group of gunmen attacked the buses and took 13 passengers with them. No one has claimed responsibility for the attack.

Bomb blast on train in Pakistan wounds 14

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP)—A senior Pakistani official says a bomb hidden in a train's bathroom has wounded 14 people in central Punjab province. Rana Sanaullah, who is provincial law minister, says three of the people wounded by the explosion Monday are in serious condition. Sanaullah says the train was headed from Punjab's capital, Lahore, to the southern city of Karachi when the homemade bomb exploded. No one has claimed responsibility for the attack.

Muslim cleric shot dead in Thailand's south

HAT YAI, Thailand (AP)—A well-respected Muslim cleric in Thailand's violence-plagued south was killed on Monday in one of the highest-profile assassinations of those working with the Thai government in resolving the southern insurgency. Imam Yacob Raimani, 50, was shot dead by an unidentified gunman who came with three other suspected insurgents at a market in Pattani city, Police Col. Tuanday Juthanan said on Monday. He said the militants fled on two motorcycles. Yacob was known to sympathize with Thai authorities in their bid to end the violence and was against radicalization. He survived an assassination attack in 2011.

Deaths from heavy rains up to 53 in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Heavy rains that caused flash floods and collapsed houses in different parts of Pakistan have killed 53 people over the past three days, a Pakistani official said Monday.

Civil and military authorities have launched rescue and relief efforts to deal with the crisis, said Brig. Kamran Zia, a senior member of the National Disaster Management Authority. He said the deaths from the flooding span the entire country.

In neighboring Afghanistan, the same storm system hit in the eastern part of the country, leveling homes and killing at least 69 people in five provinces since Saturday, Afghan relief official Mohammad Daim Kakar said on Monday.

In Pakistan, 12 people were killed in the semiautonomous tribal region in the northwest, eight in neighboring Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, and three in the Pakistan-held part of the disputed Kashmir region. Twelve people also died in central Punjab province, 10 in southwestern Baluchistan, and eight in southern Sindh.

Flooding was especially bad in Pakistan's largest city, Karachi, because of the southern city's faulty drainage system, Zia said.

Pakistan regularly suffers from flooding during the monsoon season, which usually runs through July and August. The country suffered the worst floods in its 66-year history in 2010, when floodwaters inundated one-fifth of the country, killing over 1,700 people. More than 20 million people were affected at the time.

Also Monday, a bomb exploded on a passenger train in central Punjab province, wounding 14 people, three of them seriously, said provincial law minister Rana Sanaullah. The bomb was hidden in a washroom on the train, which was headed to Karachi, said Sanaullah.

Japan marks 68th anniversary of Hiroshima bombing

HIROSHIMA, Japan (AP)—Japan marked the 68th anniversary Tuesday of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima with a somber ceremony to honor the dead and pledges to seek to eliminate nuclear weapons.

Some 50,000 people stood for a minute of silence in Hiroshima's peace park near the epicenter of the early morning blast on Aug. 6, 1945, that killed up to 140,000 people. The bombing of Nagasaki three days later killed tens of thousands more, prompting Japan's surrender to the World War II Allies.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, among many dignitaries attending the event, said that as the sole country to face nuclear attack, Japan has the duty to seek to wipe out nuclear weapons.

The anniversary comes as Japan is torn over restarting nuclear power plants shut down since the massive earthquake and tsunami in 2011 damaged reactors at a plant in Fukushima, causing meltdowns. More than 100,000 people remain displaced because of radioactivity near the plant. Abe favors restarting plants under new safety guidelines, while many Japanese oppose such restarts.

There are over 200,000 "hibakusha," victims from the atomic bombings, with an average age of nearly 79. Many gathered in Hiroshima to burn incense, bowing in prayer.

In a "peace declaration" speech, Hiroshima's mayor, Kazumi Matsui, described the pain of those who survived, only to be shunned as contaminated by the radiation.

"The atomic bomb is the ultimate inhumane weapon and an absolute evil. The hibakusha, who know the hell of an atomic bombing, have continuously fought that evil," he said.

Matsui chided the government for its efforts to restart the nuclear plants and to export nuclear technology to other countries.

World

Al-Qaida chief's message led to embassy closures

WASHINGTON (AP)—An intercepted secret message between al-Qaida chief Ayman al-Zawahri and his deputy in Yemen about plans for a major terror attack was the trigger that set off the current shutdown of many U.S. embassies, two officials told The Associated Press on Monday.

A U.S. intelligence official and a Mideast diplomat said al-Zawahri's message was picked up several weeks ago and appeared to initially target Yemeni interests. The threat was expanded to include American or other Western sites abroad, officials said, indicating the target could be a single embassy, a number of posts or some other site. Lawmakers have said it was a massive plot in the final stages, but they have offered no specifics.

The intelligence official said the message was sent to Nasser al-Wahishi, the head of the terror network's organization, based in Yemen, known as al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula.

Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the sensitive issue publicly.

American spies and intelligence analysts on Monday scoured email, phone calls and radio communications between al-Qaida operatives in Yemen and the organization's senior leaders to determine the timing and targets of the planned attack.

The call from al-Zawahri, who took over for Osama bin Laden after U.S. Navy SEALs killed the al-Qaida leader in May 2011, led the Obama administration to close diplomatic posts from Mauritania on Africa's west coast through the Middle East to Bangladesh, east of India, and as far south as Madagascar.

The U.S. did decide to reopen some posts on Monday, including well-defended embassies in Kabul, Afghanistan, and Baghdad.

AP

A Yemeni soldier stops a car at a checkpoint in a street leading to the U.S. embassy in Sanaa, Yemen, Sunday, Aug. 4, 2013.

Authorities in Yemen, meanwhile, released the names of 25 wanted al-Qaida suspects and said those people had been planning terrorist attacks targeting "foreign offices and organizations and Yemeni installations" in the capital Sanaa and other cities across the country.

The Yemeni government also went on high alert Monday, stepping up security at government facilities and checkpoints.

Officials in the U.S. wouldn't say who intercepted the initial suspect communications—the CIA, the National Security Agency, the Defense Intelligence Agency or one of the other intelligence agencies—that kicked off the sweeping pre-emptive closure of U.S. facilities. But an intelligence official said the controversial NSA programs that gather data on American phone calls or track Internet communications with suspected terrorists played no part in detecting the initial tip. That official spoke on condition of anonymity because the official was not authorized to discuss the spying publicly.

A U.S. official familiar with the threat information said the decision to close the embassies was based on a broad swath of information, not just the intercept. The official said the U.S. has made clear in the past that AQAP makes its own operational decisions—that there are back-and-forth communications between al-Qaida leadership and AQAP, but that they operate independently. The official was not authorized to disclose the information to reporters and thus spoke on condition of anonymity.

Once the plot was detected, NSA analysts could use the programs that leaker Edward Snowden revealed to determine whom the plotters may have contacted around the world. Snowden revealed one program that collected telephone data such as the numbers called and the duration of calls on U.S. telephone networks. Another program searched global Internet usage. Therefore, if a new name was detected in the initial chatter, the name or phone number of that person could be run through the NSA databases to see whom he called or what websites or emails he visited.

The surveillance is part of the continuing effort to track the spread of al-Qaida from its birthplace in Afghanistan and Pakistan to countries where governments and security forces are weaker and less welcoming to the U.S. or harder for American counterterrorist forces to penetrate—such as Syria, Iraq, Somalia, Mali and Libya—as well as Yemen, already home to al-Qaida's most dangerous affiliate, al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, which is headed by al-Wahishi.

Yemen released names of 25 wanted al-Qaida men

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—Yemeni authorities released the names of 25 wanted al-Qaida suspects on Monday, saying they were planning terrorist attacks in the capital, Sanaa, and other cities across the country.

The development came as Washington ordered the closure of 20 U.S. diplomatic missions in the Muslim world through the week, following warnings of a possible al-Qaida attack.

A statement from Yemen's Interior Ministry said the suspects were going to target foreign offices and organizations, as well as Yemeni government installations in the impoverished Arab country. It said security was beefed up around embassies, ports, airports, oil installations and power stations.

The statement listed some allegedly senior figures in the branch, known as Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, including Saudi nationals Ibrahim Mohammed el-Rubaish and Ibrahim Hassan el-Assiri.

El-Rubaish was released from Guantanamo in 2006 and is believed to have played significant roles in al-Qaida's expanding offshoot in Yemen. He is a theological adviser to the group and his writings and sermons are prominent in the group's literature.

The Yemeni statement said security forces will pay $23,000 to anyone who comes forward with information that leads to the arrests of any of the wanted men.

Washington considers the al-Qaida branch in Yemen among the terror network's most dangerous and has launched drone strikes against its top figures in Yemen.

The United States has also assisted Yemen's military in fighting the militants who, at one point during the country's recent political turmoil, had overrun large sections of land in the south. The group has also carried out bold assassination attacks on Yemeni security forces, killing hundreds over the past two years.

Separately, Yemeni security officials said a hand grenade thrown at worshippers killed a man and wounded 16 people. The attack took place during evening prayers in al-Mahweet province where al-Qaida is not believed to be active.

Former military chief gets life sentence in Turkey

ISTANBUL (AP)—In a landmark trial, scores of people—including Turkey's former military chief, politicians and journalists—were convicted on Monday of plotting to overthrow Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan's government soon after it came to power in 2002.

Retired Gen. Ilker Basbug was the most prominent defendant among some 250 people facing verdicts after a five-year trial that has become a central drama in tensions between the country's secular elite and Erdogan's Islamic-oriented Justice and Development Party.

The trial has sparked protests, and on Monday police blocked hundreds of demonstrators from reaching the High Criminal Court in Silivri, 40 kilometers (25 miles) west of Istanbul, in a show of solidarity with the defendants.

But Monday's verdicts were not expected to set off the kind of violent anti-government demonstrations that were recently sparked by a government plan to build a replica Ottoman-era barracks at a park near Istanbul's central Taksim Square.

In addition to Basbug, at least 18 other defendants were sentenced to life in prison, including 10 retired military officers and Dogu Perincek, leader of the left-wing and nationalist Workers Party. At least 64 other defendants received sentences ranging from a year to 47 years, according to state-run TRT television news.

At least 21 people were acquitted. The fully tally of verdicts and sentences was not immediately available.

The defendants were accused of plotting high-profile attacks that prosecutors said were aimed at sowing chaos in Turkey to prepare the way for a military coup. The prosecutions already have helped Erdogan's government reshape Turkey's military and assert civilian control in a country that had seen three military coups since 1960.

The trial, which began in 2008, grew out of an investigation into the seizure of 27 hand grenades at the home of a noncommissioned officer in Istanbul in 2007.

The defendants were accused of being part of an alleged ultra-nationalist and pro-secular gang called Ergenekon, which takes its name from a legendary valley in Central Asia believed to be the ancestral homeland of Turks.

In thousands of pages of indictments, prosecutors maintained that the gang was behind a series of violent acts, including one in 2006 on a courthouse that killed a judge. Prosecutors say that the incidents were made to look as though they were carried out by Islamic militants, in a bid to create turmoil and provoke a military intervention.

Pedophile's pardon embarrasses Spain, Morocco

MADRID (AP)—Spain had a seemingly simple request for Morocco's king: Pardon 18 Spaniards convicted in his country, and let 30 others return to Spain to serve out their prison terms. Instead, the monarch pardoned 48 Spanish prisoners, including a man convicted of raping children.

The apparent bureaucratic mix-up has embarrassed both nations, prompting rare protests in Morocco and an ultimately successful scramble to find the freed pedophile. It has also raised legal questions about the fate of the other 29 Spaniards believed incorrectly pardoned.

Police captured 63-year-old convicted pedophile Daniel Galvan Vina in southeastern Spain on Monday after he had nearly a week of freedom. Galvan had been convicted of raping 11 children and was serving a 30-year sentence in Morocco before the pardon came through.

Morocco's King Mohammed VI retracted his pardon of Galvan over the weekend, and Morocco, via Interpol, issued an international arrest warrant for him. Because Spain does not extradite its citizens to Morocco, Galvan will likely finish his term in a Spanish prison.

A Spanish Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said some of the 48 are believed to be back in Spain and others are still in Morocco. Most were reportedly serving time for drug-related offenses, and there was no word from Morocco that any more pardons would be rescinded.

The requests for pardons and prison transfers came during Spanish King Juan Carlos's four-day official visit to Morocco last month, and Morocco's consent was viewed as a gesture that would benefit bilateral relations.

A Spanish official confirmed that Spain asked Morocco to transfer 30 convicts to prisons in Spain while requesting that a separate list of 18 prisoners be pardoned and freed. But Moroccan authorities apparently put the two lists together and pardoned all 48, the official said. Moroccan officials would not give details Monday on exactly what happened with any lists.

The Spanish official and other officials in Spain who spoke to The Associated Press on Monday requested anonymity because government regulations do not allow them to be quoted by name.

Galvan's lawyer, Mahamed Benjedou, told The Associated Press that his client had been convicted in 2011. His release infuriated many Moroccans. On Friday night, hundreds demonstrated against the pardon, a very rare public show of displeasure with their king.

The demonstrators in Rabat shouted: "Our children are raped. Where is the law?" and "Shame!" Police used clubs break up the protest, leaving several dozen people injured, many with head wounds.

By Sunday, Mohammed VI was insisting he had not known the severity of Galvan's crimes, and later that day the king announced he'd revoked the pardon and ordered an investigation into what happened.

The Moroccan royal office, in a statement carried by the country's state news agency, announced Monday that a probe into Galvan's pardon concluded that it resulted from failures in the prison administration, which "inadvertently passed on erroneous information."

Campus Life

University of Iowa claims top party school title

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP)—College students consider the University of Iowa the nation's best party school, even though Iowa City has tried to make its famous bar scene less hospitable to underage drinkers.

The Princeton Review bestowed Iowa with the top ranking Monday on a list determined by 126,000 students in a nationwide survey. Rounding out the Top 5 are: University of California, Santa Barbara; the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; West Virginia University and Syracuse University.

The organization also released its "stone-cold sober schools" list—led again this year by Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah; and followed by Wheaton College in Wheaton, Ill.

Officials in Iowa City aren't celebrating the ranking, which comes after they've made recent strides in the battle against binge drinking on campus and downtown. University of Iowa spokesman Tom Moore said The Princeton Review "gets some things right," by describing Iowa as an affordable Big Ten university with students who are both studious and social.

"That indicates they are balancing their academic responsibilities with their social pursuits," he said.

The rankings are based on surveys in which an average of 333 students per campus are asked 80 questions about a range of subjects in the last three school years. Its methodology uses a five-point scale, allowing for school-to-school comparisons.

Universities routinely dismiss the rankings as unscientific and invalid, while praising the free publicity that comes along with positive ones. For instance, Emerson College is likely to embrace its ranking Monday as the most LGBT-friendly school, and the University of Mississippi will certainly tout its "most beautiful campus" designation.

Packed Iowa City bars blaring dance music, off-campus house parties and tailgating before Hawkeye football games are as much a part of Iowa's culture as the cornfields that surround the city. Fraternities and sororities also contribute to the party atmosphere.

But the No. 1 spot seems out of step with national data released this year showing fewer Hawkeyes are drinking and engaging in high-risk drinking. The percentage of Iowa students who reported drinking in the last 30 days (75 percent) was the lowest in 20 years of studies, even if it was above the national average.

Policy changes have scaled back Iowa City's bar scene, and a 2010 ordinance requiring customers to be 21 to enter bars—instead of 19—is credited with reducing drinking and crime. Once popular watering holes such as Vito's and One Eyed Jake's have closed, replaced by an indie movie theater and a nice restaurant.

"We are continuing to work to change the culture on our campus by educating students to only consume alcohol in a legal, safe and responsible manner, and those efforts are achieving results," Moore said.

The No. 3 party school sprawls across parts of two cities—Urbana and Champaign, Ill.—and in both, students younger than 21 can legally enter bars. In Champaign, where most of the bars are located, the minimum age is 19; in Urbana, it's 18.

The campus' party reputation is enhanced by a single annual event, Unofficial St. Patrick's Day- or, simply, Unofficial—when thousands of students and others converge for a day of drinking at parties and in bars. Local police ticket hundreds every year, and some city leaders have tried to limit Unofficial by restricting bar operating hours and taking other steps, with little or no success.

At the University of Wisconsin-Madison, No. 8 on this year's list, university officials and the city have worked to address the drinking problem, including passing an ordinance in 2012 designed to crack down on large house parties and trying to provide more entertainment options for students who aren't of legal drinking age.

Starting this fall, all incoming students will be expected to complete an online education program about alcohol abuse.

"When I started my freshman year, there was no talk in orientation or any sort of things in the dorm about alcohol, even though we all knew coming in what the reputation was of Madison as a party school," said Mark Woulf, a 2010 graduate who now serves as the city's food and alcohol policy coordinator.

Given that changing the booze-heavy culture is difficult, the school is now teaching students to take responsibility for themselves and their friends, Woulf said.

The Princeton Review senior vice president Robert Franek said its lists are based completely on students' opinions, and that Iowa's ranking does not diminish the Review's "great respect" for the school's academics or progress it's made regarding alcohol issues on campus.

The privately held education services company has published "The Best 378 Colleges" book annually since 1992. It includes 62 lists, such as the best-run college—Claremont McKenna College in California—and best college library—Columbia University in New York City.

ESFDB Summer Camp 2013 ends with success

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ESFDB Summer Camp participants perform a dance number for parents and guest during the camp's culmination day.

It was the fun, educational experience, healthy snacks, and camp out that made the Eskuelan San Francisco De Borja Summer Camp 2013 a success.

The 30-day ESFDB Summer Camp 2013, which had the theme "Cultural Diversity Through Food, Arts, and Music" for the Luta community children, concluded on Saturday, Aug. 3, 2013, with a culmination ceremony at the Rota Round House.

The ceremony was witnessed by the camp participants' parents and guests.

According to ESFDB Summer Camp director Carmen H. Atalig, "The ESFDB Summer Camp 2013 was bittersweet for most kids, saying goodbye to old and new friends all while enjoying one of the greatest days of the summer."

"And one of those greatest days was the camp out. Our kids can't stop talking about it as they bonded and shared their excitement," said Atalig.

During the past weeks, they made friends, all while learning an array of subjects in various cultures, academics, and sports activities.

Each week, they would rotate among learning activities about their culture such as food preparation, weaving, and dancing.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ESFDB Summer Camp leaders pose for a souvenir photo. The camp leaders were recognized for their leadership, volunteerism, and dedication.

However, the camp counselors didn't just want the kids to remain academically active over summer but also physically.

According to ESFDB camp coordinator Edward Maratita Jr., "to see kids from our local community make new friends with those who spent the summer is worth the time that ESFDB camp counselors put into this event."

"The one thing many weren't looking forward to were the 'goodbyes' to the camp counselors, camp leaders, and the friends made over the summer," added Maratita. "Summer camp is much like real life: there will be some highs and some lows, but in the end, most children pronounce their adventure a great success."

ESFDB Summer Camp 2013 partnered up with ECO Camp to provide educational awareness and prevention activities about Rota's ecosystem.

Coordinated by Agida Quitugua from the Rota Department of Commerce, the program was held from July 31 to Aug. 2 and involved various environmental agencies.

The camp participants went on field trips to the Talakhaya Revegetation site, Bird Sanctuary, E Gualo farm, and went snorkeling at Coral Garden and Tete'to Beach.

Participants also listened to presentations on planting crops, birds and brown tree snakes, the coral reef, marine protected areas, watersheds, erosions, marine debris, and other environmental topics.

Due to the impressive number of summer camp participants, Rota Northern Marianas College 4H Club and Rota Transportation Security Administration conducted short presentations.

Rota NMC 4H Club presentation was about nutrients, vitamins, and sugar. TSA's presentation was about the airport screening area and travel safety.

Over 50 students participated in the camp and were recognized for their participation.

Camp leaders and parental involvement were also recognized.

One parent stated: "It was good for my kids because they get to go out and learned different and new things. They also get to meet new people."

"Summer camp limited my child's Internet activities and keeps them out of trouble during the summer," said another parent.

Another parent said that one of her children learned how to cook and cooked for them. It was surprising because her child didn't know how to cook before.

Maratita announced that ESFDB would be organizing another summer camp next year when funds are available.

Atalig thanked DCCA Child Care Development Fund, the camp counselors, camp leaders, camp participants, parents and guardians, and volunteers for making the camp a success.

ESFDB also acknowledged the assistance of Mayor Melchor Mendiola, the Rota Mayor's Office staff, DCCA, Rota DYS, Department of Commerce/Eco Camp, Department of Lands and Natural Resources-Forestry Division, Sgt. Major Herman M. Atalig, RHI JROTC, Tanya King, George M. Ayuyu, Agida Quitugua and children, TJ Hocog Atalig, Tita A. Hocog, and businesses that made the ESFDB Summer Camp 2013 a success. ***(Edward Maratita Jr.)***

Life & Style

Republicans want NBC, CNN to pull Clinton programs

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Republican National Committee charged Monday that NBC and CNN are promoting a potential presidential candidacy by Hillary Rodham Clinton, threatening to blackball them from future GOP primary debates if they air upcoming programs on the former secretary of state.

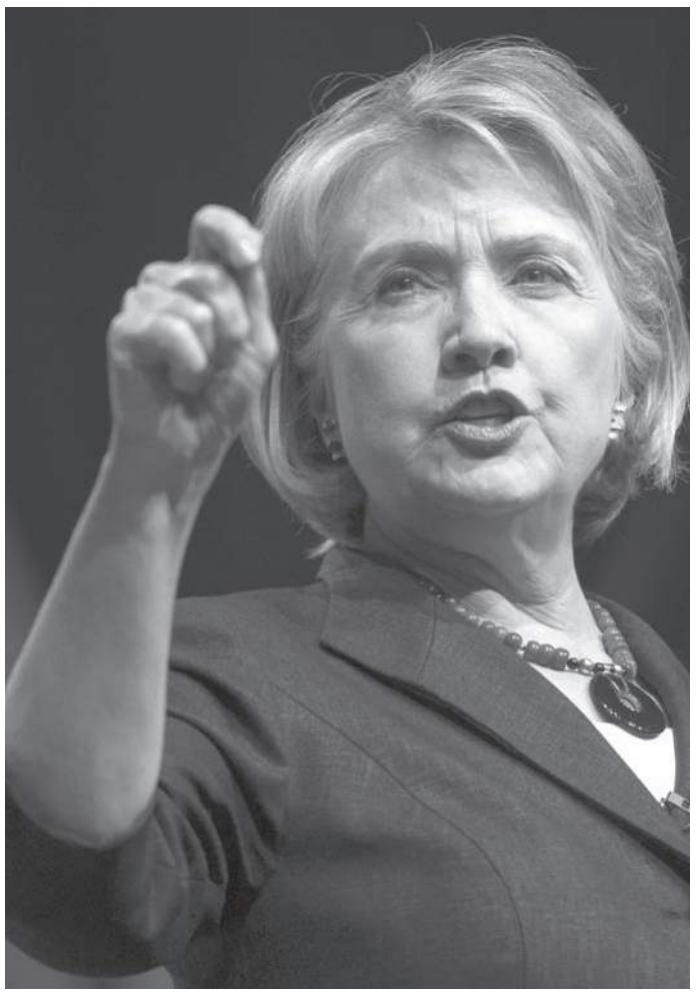
RNC chairman Reince Priebus called a planned NBC miniseries on Clinton and a CNN documentary on the first lady an "extended commercial" for a future Clinton presidential campaign. In separate letters to the networks, he urged them to cancel "this political ad masquerading as an unbiased production."

Clinton has not yet said whether she'll run for president again in 2016 but her future remains the subject of wide speculation in political circles and beyond. The primary debates typically provide a ratings boost for the networks and are highly-coveted as the presidential campaign unfolds.

In making the charge, the RNC was raising a common complaint among Republican activists that news and entertainment industries favor Democratic candidates. Republicans have also used a potential Clinton campaign as a fundraising tool in recent months as both parties begin to assess the crop of candidates to succeed President Barack Obama.

CNN Films is planning a feature-length documentary film on the former first lady, looking at her professional and personal life. It will be led by Oscar-winning director and producer Charles Ferguson and is expected to air in 2014.

NBC has announced a miniseries called "Hillary," starring actress Diane Lane. No air date has been announced but it is timed to be released before the 2016 presidential election. NBC has said the four-hour miniseries will follow Clinton's life and career from 1998 to the present.



AP

This July 16, 2013 file photo shows former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton during the 51st Delta Sigma Theta National Convention in Washington.

Richard Licata, an NBC Entertainment spokesman, declined comment on the request and referred calls to NBC News, which said in a statement that it "is completely independent of NBC Entertainment and has no involvement in this project."

CNN said in a statement that "instead of making premature decisions about a project that is in the very early stages of development and months from completion, we would encourage the members of the Republican National Committee to reserve judgment until they know more."

"Should they decide not to participate in debates on CNN, we would find it curious, as limiting their debate participation seems to be the ultimate disservice to voters," CNN said.

In the letters, Priebus said the RNC would refuse to partner with the two networks on future Republican primary debates or sanction any debates which CNN or NBC may sponsor if they continued with their Clinton programs. Unless the networks comply, he plans to push for the sanctions at an RNC meeting in Boston beginning on Aug. 14.

GOP leaders in the early voting states of Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina said they supported the request.

Since Mitt Romney's loss to Obama in last year's elections, Republicans have pushed to limit the number of primary debates. A large field of Republicans participated in about 20 debates in 2011 and 2012 and some party leaders argued that it hurt their ability to stay unified against Obama. An audit by the RNC released earlier this year called for about 10 to 12 primary debates during the 2016 campaign, with the first occurring no earlier than Sept. 1, 2015.

If NBC and CNN were excluded from sponsoring debates, it could help the RNC meet its recommendation.

The GOP request also shines a spotlight on the tricky nature of television news and how the entertainment wing of a network can cause headaches for its separate news division. CNN Films is a unit of CNN that was started last year to develop feature-length documentaries to be aired both on television and in movie theaters. CNN, part of Time Warner Inc., has said it also will air the Clinton documentary in theaters.

NBC Entertainment is separate from NBC News but both are part of NBCUniversal, which Comcast purchased from General Electric in 2011. In the letter, Priebus noted that executives and employees of Philadelphia-based Comcast have made large financial contributions to the campaigns of Obama and Clinton in the past.

Comics look to Obama, Democrats for humor

NEW YORK (AP)—President Barack Obama, the joke's on you.

A study of gags by late-night comics during the first half of the year found an abrupt change from 2012. Now Obama and Democrats are providing the lion's share of punch lines.

Obama was the target of 288 monologue jokes made by Jay Leno, David Letterman, Jimmy Fallon, Craig Ferguson and Jimmy Kimmel, according to an analysis that was released Monday by the Center for Media and Public Affairs at George Mason University.

The next most joked-about individual was New York City Democratic mayoral candidate Anthony Weiner, at 120. His numbers are likely to jump fast, since the study period was before the second round of Weiner's sexting scandal.

In 2012, Mitt Romney was the butt of more than twice as many jokes as Obama, and Republicans were similarly the target of more than double the jokes that were made on Democrats.

The findings don't illustrate any political change of heart among late-night comics, said Robert Lichter, the center's president. The jokes follow the news, and with Republicans receding after an election campaign, Obama presented more opportunities, he said.

"They're going after the most visible and powerful people that they can," Lichter said.

Even Letterman, who is generally harder on Republicans, couldn't resist joining in this time.

"People always say to me, they say, `Hey, Letterman,' they say. `Why don't you make jokes about Obama?' And I say, `All right, I'll tell you why. I don't make jokes about him because I don't want the FBI tapping my phone,'" he said.

Leno tapped into the same idea with a different story: "I was going to start off tonight with an Obama joke, but I don't want to get audited by the IRS, so forget that."

Obama plans to make his own appearance on Leno's "Tonight" show Tuesday.

Democrats were the target of 713 jokes between January and June 2013, compared with 417 gags about Republicans, the study said. The only Republicans among the top 10 joke targets were former President George W. Bush and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, the CMPA said.

Fallon was the toughest comic on Democrats, targeting them 240 times compared with 76 for Republicans. Letterman had 139 jokes about Republicans and 102 about Democrats, the CMPA found.

Book offers rare glimpse of male body dysmorphia

NEW YORK (AP)—Body dysmorphia, anorexia and bulimia have been studied in women for years, but rare is an account from a man who battled the dangerous, distorted reflection in his mirror.

Out this week from Brian Cuban, the middle of two younger brothers of Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban, is "Shattered Image," his self-published account of cocaine, alcohol and steroid abuse, a brush with suicide, visits to a psychiatric hospital and three failed marriages.

All, he said in a recent interview, stemmed from the "monster" he began seeing in his mirror as a socially crippled teenager who was overweight and bullied, both at school and by his own mother, herself a victim of body-focused verbal abuse from his grandmother.

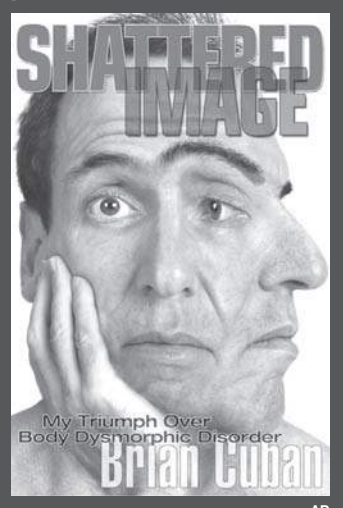
Cuban, 52 and the executive director of the Mark Cuban Foundation, said he managed to hide his demons until loved ones helped him into recovery about six years ago. Now, he fields emails from young people facing the same troubles, mostly girls trying to deal with shards of shattered self-images in their own mirrors.

He wishes more boys were among them.

"Even in 2013, the stigma is just huge for boys. You don't want to out yourself," said Cuban, who lives in Dallas. "I've had men come to me and say they're hiding eating disorders from their wives. They're afraid of losing their jobs. They're afraid of being thought of as gay. Not much has changed for men."

AP: You're just six years or so into recovery. Why write this book now?

Cuban: I just felt that there was a lack of understanding of male self-image and male eating disorders, especially body dysmorphic disorder. It is overwhelmingly thought of and portrayed in the media—and in research—as a predominantly female disorder. I wanted to be one of the ones stepping forward to help change that conversation. Nobody else seems to be. The process of writing was a big part of my recovery. Not just the book but on my blog. I came out as a bulimic on my blog. That was the first my family even knew of it.



AP

This book cover image released by NetMinds shows "Shattered Image: My Triumph Over Body Dysmorphic Disorder," by Brian Cuban.

AP: In addition to the book, what steps will you take to raise visibility on these and related issues like bullying?

Cuban: My goal is to reach out to college students to educate them about male body image issues. And to reach out to parents to hopefully start a new conversation about how to talk to your children and how fat-shaming can affect your child's perspective and get it out there that every child is different. Every child is born unique. When I talk to parents I hear a lot of, `Well, I was bullied and I fought back so that's what I'm going to teach my kid.' That's great and maybe that will work for your son or your daughter, but your child is not you. Your child may not be mentally equipped to handle it the way you did.

AP: Tell me about your mom and your grandmother because your relationships with them caused you a lot of grief over the years.

Cuban: I had a tough relationship with my mom. And my mom had a tough relationship with her mother. My grandmother was from the old country, a Russian Jewish immigrant who came over. She was dirt poor, and she had her issues. She fat-shamed my mom and my mom fat-shamed me. It just runs downhill. It's nothing new. What changes is how you deal with it. My father was my security. Part of my recovery was dealing with that, and my mom and I have a great relationship now. You have to forgive. That doesn't mean you necessarily forget, but it helps you move on by releasing the emotion.

AP: You've had several key low points, including failed marriages, nearly losing your leg to a staph infection due to steroid abuse, suicidal thoughts involving a .45 automatic in your mouth and trips to the psych ward. What was the final turn to a healthier life?

Cuban: The last time I was bulimic was, I want to say, 2007. That corresponded with my final low point, when I had a two-day, drug and alcohol induced blackout in which I was unfaithful to my girlfriend. That had never happened before. We had just moved in together. She had gone out of town and when she got back there's alcohol and drugs everywhere and there's a prophylactic on the ground.

It was at that point that I go back to the hospital. I thought she was gone but she stuck with me and we've been together almost eight years now. It was that one moment where I said, `You know what, if this happens again I'll be dead.'

I walked into 12-step. I put the eating behaviors behind me. I put the drugs behind me, but the thoughts are always there. With body dysmorphic disorder, there's no cure for the thoughts. It's only how you deal with those thoughts. Thank God for family who loves me.

Facebook CEO publicly calls for immigration reform

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg spoke out publicly for the first time Monday in favor of immigration reform, an issue he's been working on behind the scenes for several months.

The 29-year-old billionaire made his remarks in San Francisco at the debut screening of "Undocumented," an autobiographical documentary by activist and journalist Jose Antonio Vargas.

Wearing his trademark hoodie and sneakers, Zuckerberg disputed the notion that he and other Silicon Valley leaders are just trying to secure more H1B visas for high-tech workers.

"This is something that we believe is really important for the future of our country—and for us to do what's right," Zuckerberg told several hundred attendees, including House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee, at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts.

Zuckerberg and his former Harvard University roommate Joe Green recently founded the organization Fwd.us to advocate for a pathway to citizenship for nearly 11 million immigrants living in the U.S. illegally. But Monday was the first time Zuckerberg spoke about the issue in public.

The Facebook Inc. founder said he first became aware of the need to change the immigration system while volunteering to teach a class on entrepreneurship at a Menlo Park school. Many of the students had been brought into the U.S. illegally.

"No matter where they were born, (these students) are going to be tomorrow's entrepreneurs and people creating jobs in this country," he told the audience. "These are issues that don't just touch our part of the industry, but really touch a whole country."

Elton John recovering after having appendix out

LONDON (AP)—Elton John is recovering after an operation to remove his appendix.

The musician's publicist says John had the surgery last week at Princess Grace Hospital in Monaco, near his home in the south of France.

Last month the musician canceled a series of shows as he was treated for an inflamed appendix and surrounding abscess.

He said at the time that his infected appendix had been "a ticking time bomb."

He was treated with antibiotics and his publicist said Monday the appendix has been removed.

In a statement on his official website last week, John said the many get-well cards and messages he'd received from fans "have touched me deeply."

The 66-year-old musician is expected to perform in London Sept. 2, when he receives the Brits Icon Award.

In this Nov. 23, 2012, file photo shows Elton John during his concert at Mercedes-Benz Arena in Shanghai, China.

AP

50 Cent pleads not guilty to domestic violence

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Rapper and actor 50 Cent stood silently before a judge on Monday as his attorney entered his plea of not guilty to domestic violence and vandalism charges involving an ex-girlfriend who is the mother of his child.

The performer, whose real name is Curtis Jackson, was given a long list of instructions by Superior Court Judge Bernard J. Kamins, who told him to stay away from Daphne Narvarez and forbid him from contacting her by phone or email.

AP

Rapper and actor Curtis Jackson appears during an arraignment at a Van Nuys Courthouse in Los Angeles on Monday, Aug 5, 2013.

He also was told not to possess any weapons or try to dissuade witnesses from coming to court.

The 37-year-old "In Da Club" singer was ordered to return to court on Sept. 4 for a pretrial hearing.

Jackson was charged after Narvarez reported that he had trashed her Toluca Lake condo and kicked her during an argument. Police said property worth $7,100 was destroyed.

Outside court, defense attorney Scott Leemon said his client denies the allegations.

Narvarez told police that during a June 23 argument, Jackson began destroying property at her Toluca Lake condo before she locked herself in a bedroom. She also said Jackson kicked open the bedroom door and kicked her, causing injury.

Police said Jackson was gone when they arrived, and they saw broken items including chandeliers, furniture and a television.

Narvarez said she had a three-year relationship with Jackson.

He was charged with domestic violence and four counts of vandalism.. If convicted, he could face up to five years behind bars and $46,000 in fines

Jackson, somber in a dark suit and tie, was rushed out of court to a waiting SUV. A process server tried to deliver unspecified legal documents to him by placing them on the windshield of the car, but the papers flew away.

Kanye West to perform at MTV Video Music Awards

NEW YORK (AP)—Kanye West will perform at the MTV Video Music Awards this month.

MTV announced Monday that the rapper will perform his single "Black Skinhead" at the Aug. 25 awards show. West's performance will be his seventh at the VMAs. He will tie Madonna for the most performances at the awards show.

Lady Gaga will also perform at the event, which will air live from the Barclays Center in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Justin Timberlake and Macklemore & Ryan Lewis lead the MTV VMAs with six nominations each. Bruno Mars is up for four awards. Robin Thicke, Miley Cyrus, Pink and Thirty Seconds to Mars have three nominations each.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Ryan Seacrest to host new NBC game show

NEW YORK (AP)—NBC says Ryan Seacrest will host "The Million Second Quiz," a new live game show the network hopes will become event programming for two weeks in September. The network said Monday it is constructing a giant hourglass-shaped structure in Manhattan for the game, which will involve contestants testing their trivia skills over a million seconds, or 11 days, 13 hours, 46 minutes and 40 seconds. A contestant leading the game earns $10 per second for sitting in the "money chair," with a potential payoff of millions of dollars. The show will air for six straight nights starting Sept. 9, then return for four nights starting Sept. 16. Seacrest is host of "American Idol" on Fox and "New Year's Rockin' Eve" on ABC.

TV reporter Chris Hansen leaving NBC, 'Predator'

NEW YORK (AP)—An NBC News reporter best known for his "Dateline NBC" reports featuring him confronting would-be child sex predators is leaving the network. Chris Hansen stepped from the shadows in the long-running "To Catch a Predator" series to confront men lured to houses thinking they were about to meet minors they had contacted online for sex. NBC on Monday confirmed a TV Guide story saying Hansen is leaving after 20 years. Hansen says through NBC he's looking forward to pursuing new opportunities on air and as a producer. He says new projects will be announced in the next few months.

Harried phone survey taker pleads for a little respect

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I'm hoping you will pass this on to your readers. Many of us these days have to work two jobs to make ends meet. In addition to a full-time job, I work a second one in a call center. Yes, I'm one of those dreaded people who call and ask you to do a phone survey.

What I would like to remind everyone is that we are just people on the other end of the line. I have been cursed at and called names you can't print in your column. I have had the phone slammed in my ear. A little courtesy would go a long way.

If you don't want to participate in the survey, that's fine. We understand that. But have the guts to say, "Not interested" or "No, thank you," and show a little respect. We're simply trying to do a job, earn a living and pay our bills like everybody else.

HAPPY TO BE EMPLOYED

DEAR HAPPY TO BE EMPLOYED: I am not excusing poor manners, and I do sympathize with your position. But when companies make these incessant calls, they are entering people's homes without being invited, and it can make some of them very angry, particularly if they have been interrupted while eating, working, napping or caregiving.

The people you call might be less hostile if they hadn't been called repeatedly and asked to participate in these surveys after they had refused four, five or six times and had asked not to be called again. They might be more polite if they hadn't registered on a "Do Not Call" list that was ignored.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am recently retired. I enjoy it, and my daily routine is filled with activities that keep me busy.

My problem is relatives who retired a few years ago who are bored out of their minds. They show up at my home unannounced at all hours of the day and disrupt my routine. They assume I have nothing to do like them. I am not interested in baby-sitting these people so their wives won't have to put up with them. What should I do?

RETIRED IN BOSTON

DEAR RETIRED: Tell your relatives—nicely—that you have a definite routine and things scheduled that you must attend to. If you feel they would be receptive, suggest that they drop by a senior center and ask about what activities it offers or look for volunteer opportunities in the community. Then suggest that instead of dropping by, they CALL FIRST to see if you are available.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My best friend's mother has dementia. It is usually worse in the evenings, but she can function during the day—somewhat. My friend and her husband both work, leaving the mother alone at home during the day with the door locked from the outside so she can't wander off.

I have told my friend many times how dangerous this is, but she continues to do it. It makes me sick worrying about her mother, but I don't know what to do about it.

FRIEND IN FLORIDA

DEAR FRIEND: Your friend and her husband may have the best of intentions, but locking a demented person inside the house is not the answer to their problem. If a fire were to start, she might not be "with it" enough to know how to put it out or summon help. She could also fall and injure herself.

A better solution would be to find a day-care program where the mother would have company, be entertained and safely looked after. Please suggest it to them. However, if they are not receptive, Adult Protective Services should be notified because the woman's life could depend on it.

■ ■ ■

TO MY MUSLIM READERS: It's time for the breaking of the Ramadan fast. Happy Eid al-Fitr, everyone. May God make yours a blessed feast.

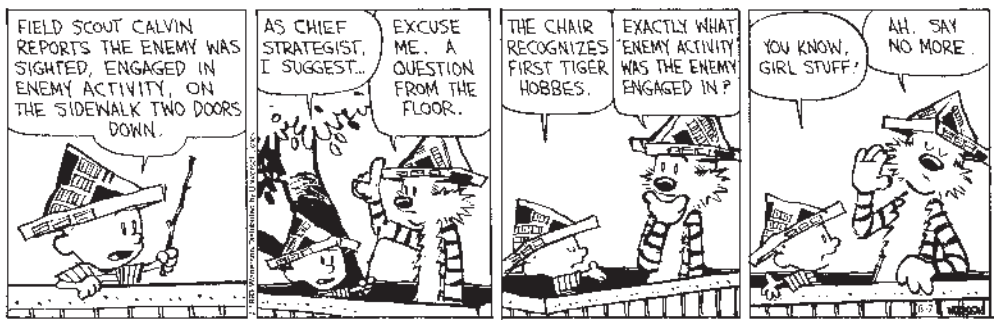
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


FIELD SCOUT CALVIN REPORTS THE ENEMY WAS SIGHTED, ENGAGED IN ENEMY ACTIVITY, ON THE SIDEWALK TWO DOORS DOWN.
AS CHIEF STRATEGIST, I SUGGEST...
EXCUSE ME. A QUESTION FROM THE FLOOR.
THE CHAIR RECOGNIZES FIRST TIGER, HOBBES.
EXACTLY WHAT 'ENEMY ACTIVITY' WAS THE ENEMY ENGAGED IN?
YOU KNOW, GIRL STUFF.
AH. SAY NO MORE.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

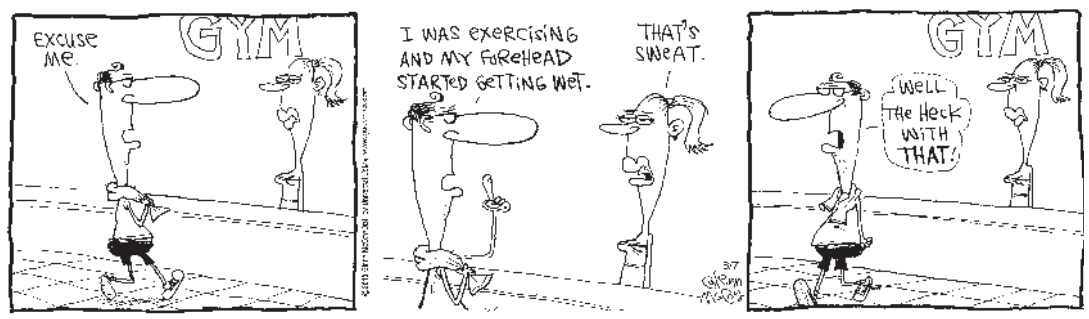
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

WHY ARE YOU DENYING YOUR BIRTHDAY?
BECAUSE IT CAN'T BE HERE ALREADY.
TIME IS MOVING TOO FAST. THIS YEAR FELT LIKE FOUR MONTHS, TOPS.
WHY DOES TIME SPEED UP AS WE GET OLDER? IT'S SLIPPING AWAY!
IS DAD HAVING A MID-LIFE CRISIS?
JUST MID-WEEK, HONEY.
I MUST LIVE LIFE!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

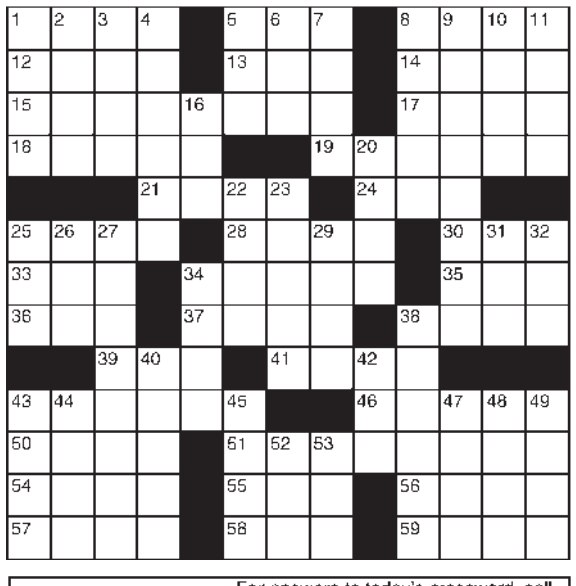
ACROSS
1 Arrived
5 Soviet space station
8 Carpet style
12 Valhalla VIP
13 Historic time
14 Top-rated
15 Sweater type
17 Speck
18 Love affair
19 "The House of the Seven —"
21 Authentic
24 — tai (cocktail)
25 Pinnacle
28 Swallow hard
30 Talk on and on
33 Old French coin
34 Paycheck extra
35 Back
36 Scale member
37 Food thickener
38 Recognized
39 Caesar's poker deck?
41 Start over
43 Elbow, knee, et al.
46 Put on a pedestal
50 Pond organism
51 State made of two peninsulas
54 Intend
55 Eggs
56 Dry
57 Skeleton piece
58 Workout venue
59 Sneaker brand

DOWN
1 Imogene of comedy lore
2 Leading man?
3 Spanish surrealist
4 Hang in there
5 "Family Guy" daughter
6 401(k) alternative
7 Pealed
8 Ballroom favorite
9 Thug
10 Initial chip
11 The Bee —
16 Anger
20 Roadie's burden, in part
22 Enthusiastic, plus
23 Moon-related
25 Donkey
26 Pigeon's comment
27 Golfer's do-over
29 Tempt
31 Birthday stat
32 Violinist's need
34 Worm, often
38 Alaskan bear
40 Foolish
42 Doo follower
43 Door-frame piece
44 Margarine
45 Urban pall
47 Shrek is one
48 Incursion
49 Concludes
52 Wall climber
53 Rotating part

Solution time: 21 mins.

R	E	A	M	■	P	I	G	■	R	E	A	D
A	L	G	A	■	L	O	O	■	E	D	G	E
W	O	O	D	L	A	N	D	■	V	E	I	N
■	■	■	M	A	Y	■	S	H	I	N	N	Y
A	D	D	E	D	■	S	P	E	E	■	■	■
V	A	I	N	■	S	H	E	R	W	O	O	D
O	U	U	■	S	P	I	E	D	■	O	B	I
W	O	O	D	W	I	N	D	■	W	H	I	P
■	■	■	W	A	N	E	■	F	I	S	T	S
B	O	L	E	Y	N	■	T	A	G	■	■	■
E	N	O	L	■	E	A	S	T	W	O	O	D
F	T	A	I	■	R	N	A	■	A	W	A	Y
P	O	D	S	■	S	I	R	■	M	E	R	E

Yesterday's answer 8-7



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Abbie Cornish, 31; Charlize Theron, 38; David Duchovny, 53; Wayne Knight, 58.

Happy Birthday: Find creative, imaginative and innovative ways to deal with relationships and the pursuit of your goals. Opportunities will come to you as long as you are willing to give back. Be considerate of what those around you need in return. Emotions will fuel the fire and bring about change. Prepare to take a leap of faith. Your numbers are 5, 11, 16, 21, 27, 33, 42.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You'll face opposition if you are too open regarding your plans. Finish personal chores quickly before anyone has a chance to complain. Make plans to have fun with friends once you've taken care of your responsibilities. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Get as much out of the way as possible. Expect to be forced to deal with people who talk big and produce little. Be proud of your accomplishments, and don't refrain from letting others know where you stand and what you've done. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Stick close to home, where you can accomplish the most. Ulterior motives behind gestures of friendliness from outsiders will lead you in the wrong direction. Get information firsthand if you have questions regarding what's expected of you. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Excess will be your downfall. Don't take on too much or overreact to what's being asked of you. Stay calm, and you'll be capable of making any situation work in your favor. Love is on the rise. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Emotions will be heightened, making it important that you think before you react. Added responsibilities may get you down, but getting them out of the way without complaining will impress someone you will need on your side in the future. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Take an unusual approach to the way you deal with groups, organizations or partners. Your innovative imagination will result in solutions that will make you look good. Updating your image will also result in a high-five from someone special. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Stick to basics and what you know and do best. Offer assistance and leave no room for error or for complaints. Change may be necessary, but in the end it will be to your advantage. Seize the moment and follow your intuitive intelligence. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Travel and communication are highlighted. Problems with someone you work with will cost you if you don't protect your reputation. Speak diplomatically, but show appreciation and give credit whenever possible. Love is encouraged, and romance will enhance your personal life. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Protect your health and physical wellness. Use caution while traveling or when involved in activities that can be strenuous. Stick close to home and concentrate on the alterations that will make your life happier and more efficient. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Make time for an older relative or colleague who can use a little help. What you receive in return will be experience, knowledge and a chance to incorporate what you have gained into your everyday routine. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Expect life to be hectic. Not much will go as planned. Enjoy the moment and do the best you can to finish what you start. Keeping up should be your main concern, along with nurturing the relationships that mean the most to you. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Engage in activities that allow you to show your attributes, skills and talents in general. In other words, show off. You'll attract attention and the assistance you need to get your own projects up and running. Contracts are looking good. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, caring and generous. You are adaptable and insightful.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		4	5	2	3			
			1			8		
3		9					1	
2	9				8			1
	8						4	
4	6	3						7
5	7		2				3	
9				7	6	5		
			8	3				

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/07

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	2	9	8	3	4	7	5	6
3	7	8	6	5	1	4	9	2
4	5	6	7	2	9	3	1	8
6	4	2	5	7	8	9	3	1
9	1	3	2	4	6	8	7	5
5	8	7	9	1	3	6	2	4
2	3	1	4	6	7	5	8	9
8	6	5	3	9	2	1	4	7
7	9	4	1	8	5	2	6	3

Difficulty Level ★★ 8/06

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CUBICLES **Solution: 11 letters**

R	E	D	E	S	O	L	C	N	E	I	M	E	S	P
L	E	M	E	M	O	R	A	B	I	L	I	A	T	L
W	L	P	I	C	T	U	R	E	S	I	O	N	A	A
O	R	A	A	T	L	R	P	S	T	A	E	R	T	N
K	E	R	C	P	K	U	E	R	P	I	S	T	I	T
A	M	T	A	C	H	A	T	L	I	A	D	T	O	S
I	P	I	R	O	O	O	E	T	P	V	C	Y	N	A
O	L	T	E	M	S	F	N	R	E	A	A	E	A	M
F	O	I	F	F	R	I	F	E	B	R	T	C	R	O
F	Y	O	L	O	E	X	S	E	E	Z	I	S	Y	L
I	E	N	O	R	S	U	E	R	E	T	N	I	R	P
C	E	M	W	T	U	P	M	A	V	E	R	O	N	I
E	S	A	E	L	I	F	A	R	E	D	I	V	I	D
T	N	E	R	N	E	I	G	H	B	O	R	A	C	K
P	E	R	S	O	N	A	L	I	Z	E	D	E	S	K

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Break Time, Call, Care, Coffee, Comfort, Declutter, Desk, Diplomas, Divider, Employees, File, Fix Up, Flowers, Games, Lease, Memorabilia, Neighbor, Noise, Office, Paper, Partition, Personalized, Phone, Pictures, Plants, Printer, Privacy, Rack, Rent, Revamp, Rooms, Semi-enclosed, Size, Space, Stapler, Stationary, Tidy, Treats, Users

Yesterday's Answer: Glass

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, volumes 30 and 31 call 1-800-642-6480. Order on line at wonderword.universaluclick.com. (Contains 43 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

1-Building Maintenance. Minimum salary. With 3 years experience. Send resume to SMJ Corporation. P.O. Box 503944 Saipan, MP 96950.

WANTED TO RENT

Looking for a SAFE 2-3 bedroom house. Preferably with ocean view. Call Alex at 989-2502

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., Small 1-BR, 1-BTH. Unit approximately 284 sq.ft. FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $250/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Small 3BR & 2BTH. Unit approximately 600 sq.ft. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. $450/mo. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $600/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $550. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Job Vacancy Announcement

(8) **Mason –** 5 years experience - $5.55/hr

Interested applicants must contact and submit resume to
RPCF, INC.
P.O. Box 504549 Saipan, MP 96950
Tel #: 234-9127 • Email - brian@pticom.com

YANO Enterprises, Inc.
dba: Kinpachi Restaurant

Cook (2): Must be experienced & skilled in preparing Japanese cuisine including but not limited to sushi, sashimi, & tempura. Can prepare all menu items according to quantity menus. Must be able to maintain kitchen & observe safety & sanitary food handling practices as well as other related duties.

Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to obtain health certificate, must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to drug test.

Applicants of positions listed above are required to have a minimum of 3-5 year experience. Applications can be picked up at Kinpachi Restaurant, MISA Bld. 1 Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan. Please no phone calls.

1-CARPENTER

Minimum 5 years work experience as a cabinet maker; Apply at Pacific Islands Club Saipan. Must be able to work evenings/weekends/holidays. Position closes 5pm 8/09/13.

LOST PASSPORT

Name: Wu, Yanming
Passport No.: G21433972
Country Code: CHN
Place of Issue: Guangdong
Date of Issue: 13 Mar 2007
Date of Expiry: 12 Mar 2017
Please call 235-9147

Marianas Security Corp.
P.O. Box 500438, Saipan, MP 96950
Job Vacancy Announcement
(5) Security Officers
(1) General Maintenance
US citizen's applicants only
Interested applicants may drop off resume at our office or simply call 234-9675.

OCEANSIDE BAR N GRILL JOB
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Cook (1)
- High school graduate
- Work flexible schedule including weekends and holidays
- At least 1-2 years working experience
- Knowledgeable of all menus and recipes in his section including ingredients, methods of cooking and preparation of dishes and assures that the correct standard of sanitation, hygiene and cleanliness is always maintained.
- Salary $5.55/Hourly

Bartender (2)
- High School graduate
- Work flexible schedule including weekends and holidays
- At least 1-2 years working experience
- Knowledgeable in mixing drinks and serving alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks and beverages to customers
- Salary $5.55/Hourly

Interested applicants can apply in person or email their resume at osidebarngrill@yahoo.com

JOSEPH C. REYES
dba: Joe's Bar and Steak House Capital
Job Vacancy Announcement

Chief Bartender (2)
Qualifications:
- High School graduate or equivalent with minimum of at least 5 years experience in the preparation of mixed cocktails
- Must know how to give instructions and supervision to his assistants
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills required
- Full time with flexible working hours

Interested applicants may submit resume to Joe's Bar and Steak House Capital's Office in Garapan.
Phone: 233-5367

LCD & Plasma TV Repair
Samsung, Philips, Vizio
Call for more information
233-5641
Open: Monday-Saturday 9:00am - 7:00pm
www.calvatron.net

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Century Tours, Inc. is inviting qualified U.S. workers to fill the following positions:

Operations Manager (01)

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Defiant A-Rod gets 211-game ban, will appeal case

Suspended
Major League Baseball suspended the New York Yankees' Alex Rodriguez through the end of the 2014 season, and 12 other players accepted 50-game suspensions for their dealings with Biogenesis, a closed anti-aging clinic in Florida accused of distributing illegal performance-enhancing drugs (PODs). Profiles of some of the players involved:
Front and center, Alex Rodriguez
• His suspension covers 211 games; he has until Aug. 8 to appeal, and if he does he can play until a decision is made by the arbitrator
Biogenesis of America
• Self-described anti-aging clinic, claimed to specialize in weight loss and hormone replacement
• According to a disgruntled former employee, Biogenesis was actually in the business of selling PEDs, specifically HGH, a growth hormone which stimulates cell regeneration
• In March 2013, MLB sued six people connected to the clinic
• League investigation led to list of at least 14 players accused of using PEDs supplied by Biogenesis
Clinic founder Anthony Bosch
Ryan Braun, OF/3B
Milwaukee Brewers
• Braun accepted a 65-game suspension on July 22, ending his 2013 season
• Reports suggest MLB's evidence against Braun was too extensive for him to credibly challenge
Nelson Cruz, OF
Texas Rangers
• The Rangers are in the hunt for a playoff berth in the A.L. West
• Cruz' suspension begins Aug. 5; he will be eligible to return for the postseason
Jhonny Peralta, SS/3B
Detroit Tigers
• The Tigers currently lead the A.L. Central
• Detroit acquired Jose Iglesias from Boston Red Sox in a July 30 trade, possibly as a hedge against losing Peralta to a 50-game suspension
The case against A-Rod
• Rodriguez was suspended under the drug agreement and the labor contract
• Drug penalty: For possessing and using performance-enhancing drugs
• Labor contract: For obstructing the investigation
Everth Cabrera, SS
San Diego Padres
• He's an All-Star infielder for San Diego, not a likely playoff team in the N.L. West
• The 50-game suspension will likely result in a loss of about $350,000 of his 2013 salary
Francisco Cervelli, C
New York Yankees
• Cervelli is currently injured, with elbow and finger problems
• His injuries made it unlikely he would return to the Yankees this year even if he were not suspended by MLB
Jesus Montero, C
Seattle Mariners
• Montero is currently assigned to the AAA farm team for Seattle, the Tacoma Rainiers
• He had been struggling at the plate and was recently diagnosed with a torn meniscus
Other suspended players
Yankees outfielder Fernando Martinez, Philadelphia pitcher Antonio Bastardo, Mets infielder Jordany Valdespin and outfielder Cesar Puello, Houston pitcher Sergio Escalona, free agent pitchers Jordan Norberto and Fautino De Los Santos
How MLB handles drug testing
MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL
Testing began
March 2003
MLB players' drugs of choice
Testosterone (increases strength, speeds recovery after workouts); Adderall (attention-deficit stimulant); HGH
Testing in 2012
Players given total of 5,136 random drug tests; 3,955 urine; 1,181 blood tests
Source: Major League Baseball, ESPN, AP, Yahoo Sports, Los Angeles Times, New York Daily News, MCT Photo Service
Graphic: Robert Dorrell © 2013 MCT

NEW YORK (AP)—Defiant till the end, Alex Rodriguez is intent on evading baseball's most sweeping punishment since the Black Sox scandal.

Rodriguez was suspended through 2014 and All-Stars Nelson Cruz, Jhonny Peralta and Everth Cabrera were banned 50 games apiece Monday when Major League Baseball disciplined 13 players for their relationship to Biogenesis of America, a Florida anti-aging clinic accused of distributing banned performance-enhancing drugs.

The harshest penalty was reserved for Rodriguez, the New York Yankees slugger, a three-time Most Valuable Player and baseball's highest-paid star. He said he will appeal his suspension, which covers 211 games, by Thursday's deadline. And since arbitrator Fredric Horowitz isn't expected to rule until November or December at the earliest, Rodriguez was free to make his season debut Monday night and play the rest of this year.

Sidelined since hip surgery in January, Rodriguez rejoined the Yankees five hours after the suspension in a series opener at the Chicago White Sox, playing third base and batting fourth.

"The last seven months has been a nightmare, has been probably the worst time of my life for sure," Rodriguez said before the game.

Booed loudly each time he walked to the plate, Rodriguez went 1 for 4 in New York's 8-1 loss. He blooped a single to left field in the second inning, flied out in the fourth and sixth, then struck out in the eighth. He acknowledged he felt rusty in the field, though he made all his plays.

"It was fun to go out there and play the game again," Rodriguez said. "I love the fans here."

The other 12 players agreed to their 50-game penalties, giving them a chance to return for the playoffs.

Ryan Braun's 65-game suspension last month and previous penalties bring to 18 the total number of players sanctioned for their connection with Biogenesis.

At the center of it all was Rodriguez, once the greatest player of his time, reduced Monday night to saying that he was humbled, at 38, just to "have the opportunity to put on this uniform again" and adding if he didn't fight for his career, no one else would.

A-Rod's drug penalty was for "his use and possession of numerous forms of prohibited performance-enhancing substances, including testosterone and human growth hormone over the course of multiple years," MLB said.

His punishment under the labor contract was "for attempting to cover up his violations of the program by engaging in a course of conduct intended to obstruct and frustrate the office of the commissioner's investigation."

In Chicago, Rodriguez wouldn't deny using PEDs, saying "when the time is right, there will be an opportunity to do all of that. I don't think that time is right now."

He added: "It's been the toughest fight of my life. By any means, am I out of the woods? This is probably just phase two just starting. It's not going to get easier. It's probably going to get harder."

Rodriguez admitted four years ago that he used PEDs while with Texas from 2001-03 but has repeatedly denied using them since. His penalty was more than double the previous high for a PED suspension, a 100-game ban given last year to San Francisco pitcher Guillermo Mota for a second offense.

"At some point we'll sit in front of an arbiter and give our case," Rodriguez said.

Yankees manager Joe Girardi, minutes after losing captain Derek Jeter for the third time this year, was ready to welcome A-Rod back. "I'm not here to judge people. That's not my job," Girardi said. "He's a player as long as he's in our clubhouse."

Girardi called the suspensions "another black eye for us, but we're trying to clean this game up."

The suspensions are thought to be the most at once for off-field conduct since 1921, when Commissioner Kenesaw Mountain Landis banned eight White Sox players for life for throwing the 1919 World Series against Cincinnati: Shoeless Joe Jackson, Eddie Cicotte, Happy Felsch, Chick Gandil, Fred McMullin, Charles "Swede" Risberg, Buck Weaver and Claude "Lefty" Williams. They had been suspended by the team the previous year and were penalized by baseball even though they had been acquitted of criminal charges.

As for the modern-day All-Stars, Cruz, an outfielder, leads Texas in RBIs and Peralta has been a top hitter and shortstop for Detroit, a pair of teams in the midst of pennant races. They will be eligible to return for the postseason.

Others agreeing to 50-game bans included Yankees catcher Francisco Cervelli and outfielder Fernando Martinez; Philadelphia pitcher Antonio Bastardo; Seattle catcher Jesus Montero; New York Mets utilityman Jordany Valdespin and outfielder Cesar Puello; Houston pitcher Sergio Escalona; and free agent pitchers Fautino De Los Santos and Jordan Norberto.

While the players' association has fought many drug penalties in the past three decades, attitudes of its membership have shifted sharply in recent years and union staff encouraged settlements in the Biogenesis probe.

"The accepted suspensions announced today are consistent with the punishments set forth in the Joint Drug Agreement, and were arrived at only after hours of intense negotiations between the bargaining parties, the players and their representatives," union head Michael Weiner said. "For the player appealing, Alex Rodriguez, we agree with his decision to fight his suspension. We believe that the commissioner has not acted appropriately ... The union, consistent with its history, will defend his rights vigorously."

Fighting a brain tumor diagnosed a year ago, Weiner spoke in a raspy voice during a conference call and said the union's executive board will consider stiffer drug penalties when players meet in December.

But the union will fight Rodriguez's discipline.

"We've never had a 200-plus (game) penalty for a player who may have used drugs," he said. "And among other things, I just think that's way out of line."

A-Rod intimated Friday that New York did not want him to return. The Yankees answered Monday with a statement:

"We are compelled to address certain reckless and false allegations concerning the Yankees' role in this matter," the team said. "The New York Yankees in no way instituted and/or assisted MLB in the direction of this investigation; or used the investigation as an attempt to avoid its responsibilities under a player contract; or did its medical staff fail to provide the appropriate standard of care to Alex Rodriguez."

Rodriguez is making $28 million this year, and his salary drops to $25 million next year and $21 million in 2015. If the 211-game penalty is upheld, his lost pay could range from $30.6 million to $32.7 million, depending on when exactly the suspension is served.

Players have often succeeded at persuading arbitrators to overturn or shorten drug suspensions. In the era before the drug agreement, LaMarr Hoyt, Ferguson Jenkins, Pascual Perez and Willie Wilson were among those who had success in hearings, and Steve Howe's lifetime ban for a seventh suspension related to drugs or alcohol was cut to 119 days.

Weiner said a settlement prior to Horowitz's decision is possible but not likely. David Cornwell, an attorney for one of Rodriguez's three law firms, called the penalty an "unprecedented action."

Rodriguez's suspension might dampen his future chances for election to the Hall of Fame. Barry Bonds, Roger Clemens and Mark McGwire all compiled big numbers, too, but voters blocked them from Cooperstown because of the drug cloud.

Though they lose part of their salaries, the stats and awards are safe for baseball players penalized in drug cases. Nothing is stripped from any record book or trophy case.

That's not always the case in other sports. Doping cost Lance Armstrong his seven Tour de France cycling titles and stripped away Olympic gold medals from sprinters Ben Johnson and Marion Jones.

Cruz attributed his action to a gastrointestinal infection, helicobacter pylori, and said he had lost 40 pounds following the 2011 season.

"I made an error in judgment that I deeply regret, and I accept full responsibility for that error," he said in a statement. "I should have handled the situation differently, and my illness was no excuse."

Peralta can rejoin Detroit for a season-ending three-game series at Miami—not far from the former office of Biogenesis.

In a statement released by the Tigers, Peralta said in "spring of 2012, I made a terrible mistake that I deeply regret." Peralta apologized to his teammates and "the great fans in Detroit," saying he knows he let "many good people down."

MLB's investigation began last year after San Francisco outfielder and All-Star game MVP Melky Cabrera tested positive for elevated testosterone, as did Oakland pitcher Bartolo Colon and San Diego catcher Yasmani Grandal. The probe escalated in January when the Miami New Times published documents obtained from former Biogenesis associate Porter Fisher that linked several players to Biogenesis.

MLB said Melky Cabrera, Colon and Grandal will not receive additional discipline and it found no violations for Washington pitcher Gio Gonzalez and Baltimore infielder Danny Valencia, both linked to Biogenesis in media reports.

In June, baseball struck a deal for Biogenesis founder Anthony Bosch to cooperate. After holding investigatory interviews with the players, MLB presented evidence to the players' union along with its intended penalties, starting the final round of negotiations.

"Those players who have violated the program have created scrutiny for the vast majority of our players, who play the game the right way," baseball Commissioner Bud Selig said. "We continue to attack this issue on every front—from science and research, to education and awareness, to fact-finding and investigative skills."

Picked first in the 1993 amateur draft, Rodriguez reached the majors at age 18 with Seattle and was an All-Star by 20. He seemed destined to become one of the greatest players in the history of the game, and appeared in line to break the all-time home run record - he ranks fifth with 647.

Yet for all his accomplishments, Rodriguez has been reviled by fans as much as celebrated, especially later in his career. His off-field antics, enormous paycheck and playoff failures have often overshadowed his feats at the plate.

The Yankees are now saddled with an aging star slowed by two hip operations. They still owe him around $94 million, raising questions about whether his dwindling production is worth that price.

Mathis, Freeney contend with offseason break up

ANDERSON, Ind. (AP)—Dwight Freeney and Robert Mathis were virtually inseparable as Colts teammates.

Over the last decade, they shared a Super Bowl title, went to four Pro Bowls together, combined for nearly 200 sacks and became one of the NFL's most feared defensive tandems. Freeney taught Mathis the spin move and the art of a strip sack, and Mathis responded with results that were every bit as good—and sometimes better—than his mentor. They became best buddies.

Now, for the first time in their pro careers, Mathis and Freeney have been split up. And breaking up is hard to do.

Freeney is on the West Coast getting accustomed to a new team and a new way of doing business, while Mathis is back home in Indiana, coping with his first training camp without Freeney.

"It's weird. It's really, really weird," Mathis said. "It's something you have to get used to because for a decade, we've been talking together at camp."

Until now, Freeney had been the unquestioned spokesmen for Indy's defense, the guy Mathis could always go to when he had a question or needed some advice. After all, Freeney was the Colts' career leader in sacks, the first player in franchise history to win a sacks crown and a seven-time Pro Bowler who was an established fan favorite.

AP

San Diego Chargers linebacker Dwight Freeney signs autographs for fans during NFL football training camp Thursday, Aug. 1, 2013, in San Diego.

Mathis, a five-time Pro Bowler, always seemed to come in a close second.

Their friendship managed to survive despite that one-two image, despite the injuries, even despite the great Colts purge of 2011 that claimed so many of their close friends—Joseph Addai, Gary Brackett, Dallas Clark, Peyton Manning and Jeff Saturday.

Last season, things began to change on the field.

When coach Chuck Pagano installed his version of the 3-4 defense that had been so successful in Baltimore, he decided to move both pass-rushing ends to rush linebackers.

While Mathis embraced his role and became increasingly more productive, Freeney never quite fit in. He looked uncomfortable in pass coverage and his spin move wasn't nearly as effective. So at age 33 with his contract expiring and three consecutive seasons of declining numbers, Indy general manager Ryan Grigson made the decision to break up the tandem.

The Colts honored Freeney by posting the words "thanks for the memories" across his poster outside Lucas Oil Stadium, just like they had with Manning and Clark.

It wasn't easy on anyone.

"They built, as Robert said, a friendship, a brotherhood if you will," Pagano said. "There's a certain comfort zone. One knew the other one was always going to be there. That relationship, this game, we always talk about this game will fade at some point for all of us, but the relationships will never fade. I know Robert and Dwight's relationship will never fade and that's something that they'll have for the rest of their lives."

And, of course, they've kept the lines of communication open.

Two weeks after Freeney signed with the Chargers, the Syracuse alum and Connecticut native flew south and to be a groomsmen in Mathis' wedding, and the conversations between Freeney and Mathis have continued right through training camp.

A-Rod singles, Yankees lose 8-1 to White Sox

CHICAGO (AP)—Alex Rodriguez blooped a single into left field in his first at-bat of the season, hours after being hit with a long suspension.

It was a nice start for the embattled slugger, but that was it. The finish belonged to the Chicago White Sox.

Rodriguez went 1 for 4 in his first game for New York, but the White Sox beat the struggling Yankees 8-1 on Monday night to snap a 10-game losing streak.

Rodriguez was suspended through 2014 by Baseball in the Biogenesis case, a punishment he is appealing.

That clearly was the biggest story on a day when New York's Derek Jeter went back on the disabled list because of a strained right calf and Andy Pettitte (7-9) got knocked out early. Alex Rios drove in four runs, Alexei Ramirez added four hits and Jose Quintana (6-3) pitched into the seventh for the White Sox.

Tigers 4, Indians 2

In Cleveland, Alex Avila's three-run homer in the ninth inning off closer Chris Perez rallied Detroit to its ninth straight win.

The Tigers were three outs away from having their lead in the AL Central cut to two games before their comeback against Perez (4-2), who had converted 11 consecutive save opportunities.

After Victor Martinez's RBI single made it 2-1, Perez walked Andy Dirks before Avila drove a 1-0 pitch over the wall in left-center for his ninth homer, stunning a Cleveland crowd ready to celebrate the team's biggest win this season.

Manager Terry Francona had no choice but to relieve the controversial Perez, who sullenly walked to the dugout after not retiring a batter and heard only boos from Indians fans.

Al Alburquerque (2-2) got one in the eighth and Joaquin Benoit worked the ninth for his 13th save.

Detroit starter Anibal Sanchez struck out 11 in 7 2-3 innings, and was in line to take a tough loss before the Tigers stormed back for their 13th win in 14 games.

It was a demoralizing setback for the Indians, who fell to 3-10 against the Tigers this season and had their home winning streak stopped at 11.

Royals 13, Twins 0

In Kansas City, Mo., Jeremy Guthrie pitched a four-hitter and Eric Hosmer drove in a career-high five runs to help Kansas City rout Minnesota.

The Royals, who have won 12 of their past 13 games, scored a season-high 13 runs.

Guthrie (12-7) won his fourth straight start to log his 12th victory, which is a career high. It was his second career shutout and he lowered his ERA to 3.94.

The Royals sent 11 men to the plate in a six-run second inning, which was highlighted by Mike Moustakas and Hosmer stroking two-run singles. Moustakas collected two hits in the inning.

Hosmer hit his 12th home run in the sixth with Jarrod Dyson and Cain aboard.

Moustakas, who had two hits in the second inning, went 4 for 5, matching his career high for hits.

Kevin Correia (7-8) was pulled after two innings and 16 batters faced, allowing six runs and seven hits and three walks.

Astros 2, Red Sox 0

In Houston, Brett Oberholtzer threw seven shutout innings, and L.J. Hoes scored twice to lead Houston over Boston.

Oberholtzer (2-0) allowed four hits while walking two and striking out two. In his first two career starts, Oberholtzer has thrown 14 scoreless innings, allowing seven hits.

Hoes and Jonathan Villar each had two hits for the Astros, who snapped a four-game losing streak.

The Red Sox, who lost for the second time in their past seven games, put runners on the corners with two outs in the eighth after a David Ortiz bloop single off Wesley Wright advanced Jacoby Ellsbury to third, but Josh Fields struck out Mike Napoli to end the inning.

Fields struck out the side in the ninth for his first save of the season.

Boston starter John Lackey (7-9) allowed two runs and eight hits with two walks and 10 strikeouts in six innings. Lackey has lost three straight decisions.

Rangers 5, Angels 2

In Anaheim, Calif., Adrian Beltre homered, Martin Perez pitched into the seventh inning, and Texas beat the Los Angeles Angels after losing All-Star outfielder Nelson Cruz to a 50-game suspension.

Jurickson Profar had a run-scoring hit for Texas, which has won seven of eight to move within two games of AL West leader Oakland.

After Cruz spoke about his doping suspension in a pregame meeting, the Rangers uniformly stood behind their longtime teammate. David Murphy took over in right field for Cruz, scoring two runs but also misplaying two balls.

Elvis Andrus got credit for a two-run triple in the fifth inning when Angels second baseman Howie Kendrick hyperextended his left knee while failing to catch Andrus' popup to the outfield.

Blue Jays 3, Mariners 1

In Seattle, Mark DeRosa's pinch-hit, two-run single in the eighth inning gave Toronto and R.A. Dickey a victory over Seattle.

Dickey (9-11) went 7 2-3 innings, allowing one run on eight hits. The knuckleballer struck out five and walked two to earn his first win since July 1. Casey Janssen worked the ninth for his 20th save in 22 opportunities.

Hisashi Iwakuma (10-5), who pitched 7 1-3 innings, took the loss. He allowed two runs on four hits, striking out two and walked a season-high three.

Justin Smoak hit his 11th home run in the seventh to give the Mariners a 1-0 lead at the time. Since July 1, Smoak is batting .327 with 16 runs, eight doubles, five homers and 13 RBI.

The Blue Jays responded with three runs in the eighth.

Dodgers 3, Cardinals 2

In St, Louis, Zack Greinke pitched into the seventh inning and raised his batting average to .405 with an RBI single, helping the Los Angeles Dodgers win their 15th straight on the road with a victory over the St. Louis Cardinals.

Nick Punto was productive subbing for injured shortstop Hanley Ramirez and the Dodgers got an RBI apiece from Andre Ethier and A.J. Ellis while matching the Cincinnati Reds' 15-game run in 1957. They're two wins shy of the NL record set by the 1916 New York Giants.

Greinke (9-3) allowed two runs in 6 1-3 innings for his 100th career victory, allowing two hits in the third, fourth and fifth but no runs. Paco Rodriguez earned his second career save with a perfect ninth.

Adam Wainwright (13-7) gave up three runs in seven innings and failed in his third straight attempt at winning his 14th.

Braves 3, Nationals 2

In Washington, Justin Upton led off the eighth inning with a tiebreaking homer, and the NL East-leading Braves extended their winning streak to a season-high 11 games by beating the fading Nationals.

Freddie Freeman drove in Atlanta's first two runs with a pair of singles in the third and fifth. Reliever David Carpenter (3-0) earned the win by retiring all five batters he faced.

Upton's 20th homer came on a 3-2 pitch from Tyler Clippard (6-2), who replaced Stephen Strasburg to begin the eighth.

The Nationals again failed to provide much run support for Strasburg, who struck out nine in seven innings, allowing two runs and five hits. The last five times he's allowed two earned runs or fewer, Washington lost.

Giants 4, Brewers 2

In San Francisco, pinch hitter Jeff Francoeur's broken-bat single in the bottom of the eighth inning drove in the go-ahead run in the Giants' victory over the Brewers.

Brandon Belt had three hits for the Giants, who won for the fourth time in six games. Hunter Pence walked three times and stole two bases.

Santiago Casilla (5-2) pitched the eighth for the win, while John Axford (4-5) took the loss. Sergio Romo pitched the ninth for his 27th save in 31 chances.

Juan Francisco hit a home run and drove in two for the Brewers, who have lost four of five. Jean Segura and Jonathan Lucroy each had two hits.

Giants starter Chad Gaudin gave up a run on four hits over 6 1-3 innings. He walked four and struck out eight.

Brewers starter Tyler Thornburg went six innings, allowing an unearned run on seven hits.

Maplas snaps Adobo's winning run

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Maplas La Mani handed Adobo its first loss in the 2013 DL Corp. Invitational Basketball League after eking out a 65-62 victory in the second game last Saturday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Dan Mateo and Edmark Mendoza scored two straight baskets apiece in the closing minutes of the game to lift Maplas to the 3-point win and improve the team's record to 3-2. Adobo fell to a 4-1 mark, failing to send the game in overtime after Genesis Mamaril missed on his desperation triple.

Maplas' Dan Mateo pulls up for a baseline jumper and is fouled by Adobo's Genesis Mamaril during the first quarter of their game in the DL Corp. caging last Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court. ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mateo top-scored for Maplas with his 19 points, drilling the team's last 4 markers, while Mendoza added 15, 6 of them came in the payoff canto. Edgar Pangelinan and Dennis Morales completed Maplas' balance scoring, contributing 13 and 12, respectively.

Ralph Francisco paced Adobo with his 17 markers, but was limited to one field goal in the fourth period.

The Maplas-Adobo game in Pool B was a close fight right from the start with neither team managing to take a double-digit lead. However, the veteran players of Maplas played steady in the homestretch to snap Adobo's four-game winning streak and end their own two-game losing skid.

Mawati 82, Five O 71

In Pool A, Mawati extended its winning run to four after defeating Five O Restaurant.

Mawati took the 11-point win despite trailing in the majority of the first half, which ended with Five O ahead by 3, 41-38.

Mawati began turning the table on Five O in the third quarter, 59-47, as it held the latter to two field goals and 6 points in that frame. Mawati's third-canto push was a team effort, as it had eight players making it to the board at the start of the second half. Then Bryan Ajoste put the finishing touches on Mawati's win, firing 9 of his team-high 17 points in the fourth quarter.

Five O dropped to a 2-3 record despite getting 31 points from Melvin Cadiang.

First Game

Mawati 82 – Ajoste 17, Bahillo 13, Guntar 11, Corotan 8, Serrano 8, Samson 7, Reyes 6, Bautista 4, rena 2.

Five O Restaurant 71 – Cadiang 31, Alegre 17, Barrios 5, Vilanueva 4, Tenorio 4, Mungcal 3, David 3, Quemado 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-20, 38-41, 59-47, 82-71.

Second Game

Maplas 65 – Mateo 19, Mendoza 15, Pangelinan 13, Morales 12, Ocampo 7.

Adobo 62 – Francisco 17, Saturno 14, Mamaril 9, Palacios 6, Vertudez 5, Yap 5, Javier 3, Tadifa 2.

Scoring by quarters: 10-15, 28-32, 46-44, 65-62.

With 8th Bridgestone win, Woods can't wait for PGA

AKRON, Ohio (AP)—Tiger Woods can't wait to get to the PGA Championship.

Woods grabbed a big lead with a second-round 61 and then closed out the field with safe and smart even-par 70 on Sunday to roll to a seven-shot victory at the Bridgestone Invitational.

Next up? The year's final major championship at Oak Hill.

"Do I want it any more? No, it's the same," said Woods, winless in his past 17 major championships. "Each and every major, I always want them. I've been successful 14 times, and hopefully next week it'll be 15."

That confidence is a product of his eighth win at the Bridgestone—matching the PGA Tour record he already shared for victories in a single tournament.

He grabbed a seven-shot lead with a stunning, career best-tying 61 on Friday and maintained it through a 68 on Saturday to arrive at 15-under 265.

On Sunday, he avoided any major mistakes and waited for a challenge that never came from an elite field.

"As blustery as it was, it was going to be really hard for someone to shoot 62 or 63," Woods said.

"If I didn't give any shots away and played my game and shot even par or better, I'd force these guys to go and shoot something super low on a golf course that wasn't going to give it up under these conditions."

The victory was Woods' 79th on the PGA Tour, drawing him within three of Sam Snead's record 82 triumphs.

"The total body of work is pretty good," Woods said. "One of the things I'm proud of, obviously, is how many times I've won, plus won World Golf Championships and how many years I've won five or more tournaments in a season. What is it, like eight or nine times? Ten? That's not bad, either."

Lest anyone think he'll have difficulty surpassing Snead's total, consider that Woods is more than 10 years younger (he's 37 1/2) than Snead was when he won his 82nd and final event, the 1965 Greater Greensboro.

Defending champion Keegan Bradley, who tied for second with Henrik Stenson, was a huge fan of Woods when he was a kid. He was asked if he liked seeing Woods dominate as he did a decade or so ago.

"When I was younger, I did," Bradley said. "You know, I hate to sit here and go on and on about how good he is, but he is. It's difficult because I really want to get up there and contend with him. But he's just ... this week he's playing really well."

Woods' mastery at Firestone Country Club allowed him to again match Snead's PGA Tour record for wins in an event.

Snead won the Greater Greensboro Open eight times.

Earlier this year, Woods won at Bay Hill for the eighth time. Woods has also won eight times at Torrey Pines, seven times in the Farmers Insurance and also in the 2008 U.S. Open.

As he walked to the scorer's trailer to finalize his score, Woods scooped up 4-year-old son Charlie, who hugged him tightly as his father strode past the large gallery wildly cheering his landslide victory.

"This is the first win he's ever been at," Woods said. "That's what makes it special for both of us."

Daughter Sam was on hand when Woods won the U.S. Open in 2008, before his personal life imploded. Now Charlie will have some memories of dad in the winner's circle.

"They always say, `Daddy, when are you going to win the tournament?' It was a few years there, or a couple years, I hadn't won anything," Woods said, smiling. "`Are you leading or not? That's a stock question. `Not leading.' `Well, are you going to start leading?' `Well, I'm trying.'"

No one got within six shots all day of the world's No. 1.

IGUEL

From Page 28

Poland after submitting 11.68 seconds during the 2013 Oceania Area Championships in Pepeete, Tahiti, in June.

Iguel's heat schedule has yet to be posted at the IAAF website, but one of the runners in his event is his idol Usain Bolt of Jamaica.

"I am hoping I could watch him race and draw inspiration from him. It's always inspiring to see these fast runners, as you are motivated to train harder and be like them in the future," Iguel said.

Bolt won the 200m gold medal in the 2011 edition of the World Championships in Daegu, Korea, but lost in the 100m to teammate Yohan Blake.

Meanwhile, more than 2,000 athletes from 206 nations will be in Moscow for the nine-day tournament, which offers over $7 million in cash prizes, including the $100,000 for athletes who will set world records. Gold medal winners in individual event will receive $60,000, $30,000 for silver, and $20,000 for bronze. Cash prizes will also be given to the No. 4 to No. 8 finishers ($15,000, $10,000, $6,000, $5,000, and $4,000). For relays, a gold medal is worth $80,000, silver is $40,000, and bronze is $20,000. The fourth finishers will take home $16,000, $12,000 to fifth, $8,000 to sixth, $6,000 to seventh, and $4,000 to eighth. Cash prizes will only be awarded to athletes after clearing anti-doping tests.

PIKABOO

From Page 28

ago to attend a training camp.

"My dad (Cuki) sent me to Guam for better and more serious training since this is my biggest fight yet. I am training with Frank 'The Crank' Camacho and Kyle Aguon, the semi and main event fighters, and training has been awesome. I feel I am in my best shape so far and I am ready to give it everything I got, the 20-year-old Alvarez said.

When he debuts in PXC this weekend, Alvarez will be putting his impressive 9-1 win-loss record on the line against the 5-6 card of Reyes. The Saipan bet absorbed his lone loss to Guam's Robert Wusstig (split decision) during the Trench Warz 15: Supremacy held on Dec. 16, 2011, while Reyes has dropped his last five bouts. The Spike 22 fighter lost via decisions in PXC 24 and 30 held in 2011 and was knocked out by Troy Bantiag in PXC 35 early this year, while his two other defeats were in Japan in 2012.

Though Alvarez has the clear advantage over Reyes, record-wise, the former is not taking his foe lightly, as the latter is a known tormentor of Saipan fighters. Reyes posted his four victories against Saipan's Derrick Rangamar, Maitai Charley, Jay Muna, and Ryan Gardee, and the other one was versus Guam's David Cho at PXC 22 Combat on Jan. 21, 2011.

"I've watched him fight and I was always impressed each time. He is very aggressive and skilled both on the ground and striking on top, but so am I so this is going to be a great fight. I expect a war. My biggest advantage is my gas and the pace I set. I know I am in better shape than he is and I've taken my training very seriously," said Alvarez, who also trained in the mainland early this year.

"The game plan is to go in there and have fun. I want to stand and bang, as I've been working on my stand up and I am confident on my striking skills. My opponent is actually a stand-up fighter so I'm sure we will give the fans what they want and that's a FIGHT," he said.

Alvarez added he is dedicating his PXC debut to his grandfather, the late Ray Alvarez Sr.

"One of my motivations is my Papa up in heaven. I told him I want to be a fighter and he believed wholeheartedly that I could be the best. My mom and dad, Mari and Cuki, my girlfriend Peachy, and all my friends and fans motivate me to win," Alvarez said.

Meanwhile, Cuki said his son has to make a good impression in this Friday's PXC 38 to move his MMA career to another level.

"This is an important step and fight for Shane . The PXC is the next level and the premier MMA event in the Marianas. Kinda like the 'UFC' of the region if you will. The pressure to do good and perform well is very high. Fighters want to impress the managers and bosses of PXC so that they will be invited back for future bouts," the older Alvarez said.

"The PXC showcases the best fighters not only from the region, but even from around the world. So being this is Shane's official 'pro' debut, I am very excited and at the same time a little nervous for him. But we have trained hard and prepared him well for this fight. I am very confident he will do great and now just looking forward to the fight date," he added.

BUBBLEBXTT

From Page 28

with her game-high 19 markers.

First Game

Ballersss 55 – Alipio 13, Travilla 12, Palero 12, Reyes 7, Diaz 7, Garon 4.

Yoloswag Attack 39 – Rayphand 19, Lebria 6, Mendoza 5, Kautz 4, Farro 2.

Scoring by halves: 27-24, 55-39.

Second Game

Bubblebxtt 64 – Kautz 18, Castillo 14, Pena 10, Javier 9, Pagarao 6, Alegre 4, Santiago 1.

Hashtag 33 – Ito 13, Abrams 9, Lumabi 5, Badilles 4, Bartolo 2.

Scoring by halves: 25-20, 64-33.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	68	46	.596	_
Tampa Bay	66	45	.595	1/2
Baltimore	61	51	.545	6
New York	57	54	.514	9 1/2
Toronto	52	60	.464	15

Central Division

Detroit	65	45	.591	_
Cleveland	62	50	.554	4
Kansas City	57	52	.523	7 1/2
Minnesota	48	61	.440	16 1/2
Chicago	41	69	.373	24

West Division

Oakland	64	47	.577	_
Texas	63	50	.558	2
Seattle	52	60	.464	12Ω
Los Angeles	51	60	.459	13
Houston	37	74	.333	27

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	68	45	.602	_
Washington	54	58	.482	13 1/2
Philadelphia	50	61	.450	17
New York	49	60	.450	17
Miami	43	67	.391	23 1/2

Central Division

Pittsburgh	67	44	.604	_
St. Louis	65	46	.586	2
Cincinnati	61	51	.545	6 1/2
Chicago	49	62	.441	18
Milwaukee	47	65	.420	20 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	62	49	.559	_
Arizona	56	55	.505	6
San Diego	52	60	.464	10 1/2
Colorado	52	61	.460	11
San Francisco	50	61	.450	12

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2013 Shirley's Badminton Classic

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Susan Macario, general manager of tournament sponsor Shirley's Coffee Shop, shakes hands with Northern Marianas Badminton Association official Shirley Kim after turning over a donation from the Tan Siu Lin Foundation for the 2013 Shirley's Badminton Classic that kicked off last Friday at the TSL Sports Complex. Also in the photo is NMBA official Roger Vales and the participating players.

NMBA president Jerry Tan delivers a speech during the opening ceremony of the competition.

Saipan Badminton Club's Dianne Francisco leads the player's oath of sportsmanship, while opening ceremony host Macoi Aguda assists her.

The young players of Community Badminton Club pose for the camera.

Players of TAGA Badminton Club pose with Susan Macario before the start of the games.

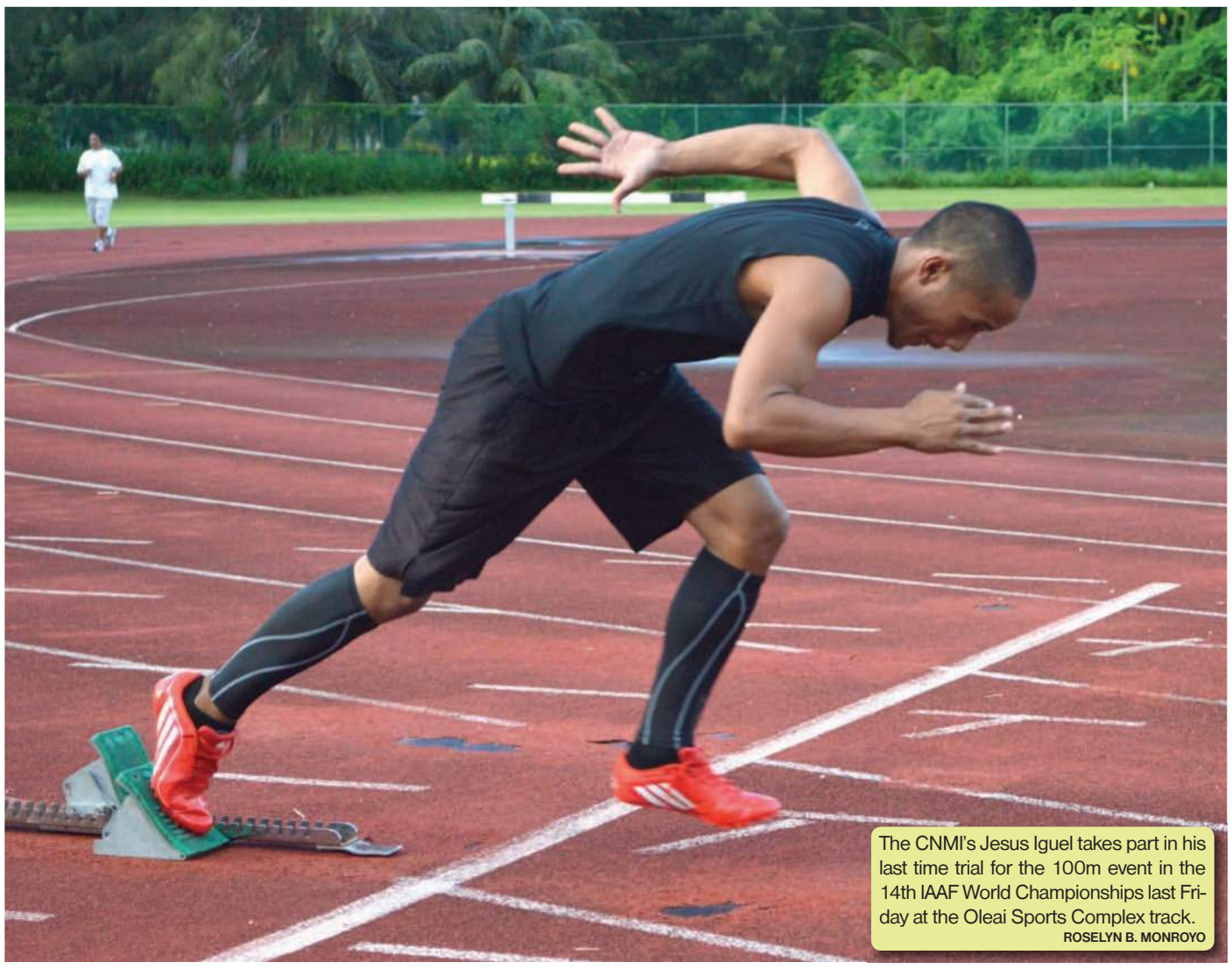
Players of the Colgate-sponsored Shirley's Badminton Club pose for a group photo.

Players of Saipan Badminton Club pose with their team banner.

Members of the Golden Racquets gather for a group photo.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Iguel all set for World Championships


The CNMI's Jesus Iguel takes part in his last time trial for the 100m event in the 14th IAAF World Championships last Friday at the Oleai Sports Complex track.
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Jesus Iguel left Saipan for Russia last Monday to compete in the 14th IAAF World Championships.

Iguel will be racing in the 100m sprint in the 14th IAAF World Championships that will be held in Moscow from Aug. 10 to 18. Iguel's lone event will have its qualifying heats on Day 1 of the tournament, starting at 10:15am (4:15pm Saipan time) at the Luzhniki Stadium, the venue for the 1980 Summer Olympics and the 2006 IAAF World Indoor Championships.

"I am very excited and at the same time nervous because this is a very high-level competition and it is only my second time to compete in the Worlds," Iguel said in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* last Friday during his last time trial at the Oleai Sports Complex track.

The 24-year-old sprinter first represented the CNMI in the 12th IAAF World Junior Championships in Bydgoszcz, Poland in 2008. He also joined the 100m run where he clocked in at 11.71 seconds to eclipse his previous personal best time of 11.82 seconds registered during the 2008 Oceania Grand Prix held here on Saipan.

"This time I am aiming to beat Tyrone Omar's record (10.99 seconds). I've been training hard for the past several months. I am running at the track and doing some weights training at the gym," said Iguel, who went to Russia with coach and Northern Marianas Athletics official Elias Rangamar.

Omar set the CNMI record in the 100m run during the 2007 Pacific Games in Apia, Samoa, while Iguel surpassed his mark in

See IGUEL on Page 26

Bubblebxtt retains unbeaten record

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Bubblebxtt rolled to its fourth win in a row as the second round of the 2013 Kanoa Resort Women's Basketball Summer League started last Monday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Bubblebxtt extended its run in the summer caging after beating Hashtag in the second game, 64-33. It was Bubblebxtt's second victory against Hashtag, as it also coasted to a 57-30 triumph in their first meeting late last month.

While Bubblebxtt was in control of its first match versus Hashtag right into the opening half, the first 20 minutes of their second encounter was a close one. Hashtag fell behind by only five at break, 25-20, thanks to Kyla Ito's decent three-point shooting. Ito drilled three triples in the first half and finished with 11 points to keep Hashtag in the game.

Bubblebxtt connected only on one triple in the first half, but drained two more in the second, while Mikki Kautz got away with easy layups to lift the team to the 31-point win.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Bubblebxtt's Mikki Kautz drives strong to the basket during their first meeting against Hashtag in the Kanoa caging last week at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Kautz scored 12 of her game-high 18 points in the final half of the match.

Jeralyn Castillo and Friendly Joy Pena also logged twin digits for the unbeaten Bubblebxtt, tallying 14 and 10, respectively.

Ito was the lone player from Hashtag to finish in double figures with her 13 points. Rachel Abrams was held to 9 points.

Ballersss 55, Yoloswag Attack 39

In the other game last Monday, the Ballersss also made it two in a row against Yoloswag Attack.

The Ballersss-Yoloswag Attack tiff was neck-and-neck, too, in the first half before Kate Alipio took over for the winning team in the second half and gave her squad its third win in four games.

Alipio made only one field goal in the first half, which ended with the Ballersss ahead by only 3, 27-24. She then scored in streak midway in the second half, notching 6 straight markers and then another back-to-back baskets in the latter part of that period to give the Ballersss a double-digit winning margin.

Jan Travilla and Ira Palero also helped out on offense, firing 12 points apiece, while Jazmin Rayphand carried the heavy load for Yoloswag Attack (1-3)

See BUBBLEBXTT on Page 26

'Pikaboo' debuts at PXC

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Trench Tech's Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez will be seeing action at Pacific Xtreme Combat for the first time this Friday at the University of Guam Fieldhouse and will be taking on Spike 22's Tony "Rush" Reyes in a bantamweight bout.

"I am very excited and anxious however I feel no pressure as I am confident in my skills and the training camp I went through for this fight. I am ready. The jitters and butterflies may come on fight day but that is natural, so far I am focused and feeling awesome," said Alvarez, who started preparing for his PXC debut on Saipan, but moved to Guam several weeks

See PIKABOO on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez, seen here in a fighting stance against his Guam foe during a local grappling tournament in June this year, is debuting in PXC 38 this Friday.